House votes to avert shutdown but Senate approval remains in doubt. **NEWS, PAGE 4**

Warning over Ukraine

U.S. issues a strong warning to Russia to stay away from Ukraine. **NEWS, PAGE 4**

UConn's Reid retiring

UConn men's soccer coach Ray Reid announces retirement. **SPORTS, PAGE 1**

Much cooler



Partly sunny and very breezy, with a high of 41. **SPORTS, PAGE 6**





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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2021

CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

Most of state under 'red alert'

414

As of Thursday, the state has 414 patients hospitalized — the most at a time since April 27. Hospitalizations have more than doubled in less than a month.

Seven-day positivity rate highest since middle of January as hospitalizations and deaths increase

By Alex Putterman
Hartford Courant

About four-fifths of all Connecticut municipalities now qualify for the state's COVID-19

"red alert" designation, the governor's office announced Thursday, as cases and hospitalizations continue to surge.

Of 169 municipalities in the state, 135 averaged at least 15 daily

COVID-19 cases per 100,000 residents from Nov. 14-27, the threshold for the red alert category.

About two dozen additional towns and cities are currently at the "orange" level, one level below red.

Connecticut's COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations have increased rapidly in recent weeks,

reaching their highest levels in months. The spike has particularly affected unvaccinated residents, who have been about five times as likely to test positive as vaccinated residents, according to state data.

Experts say Connecticut's

Turn to Virus, Page 3

CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK FIGHTING A WINTER SURGE

BIDEN CALLS ON SCIENCE, SPEED

AT-HOME TESTS: Free kits will be made available at community centers or through private insurers

TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS: International travelers will be required to present negative test before arrival

By Sheryl Gay Stolberg The New York Times

President Joe Biden, confronting a worrisome new coronavirus variant and the potential of a winter surge, laid out a new pandemic strategy Thursday that includes hundreds of vaccination sites aimed at families, booster shots for all adults, new testing requirements for international travelers and free at-home tests that will be covered by private insurers or available at community health centers.

The push to expand access to at-home testing is a tacit acknowledgment by the White House that vaccination, which the president has touted as the path out of the pandemic, is not enough on its own. Experts have argued for months that masks and testing are also essential, and the need for testing will become even more urgent if the new omicron variant is found to evade protection from vaccines, which has not yet been established.

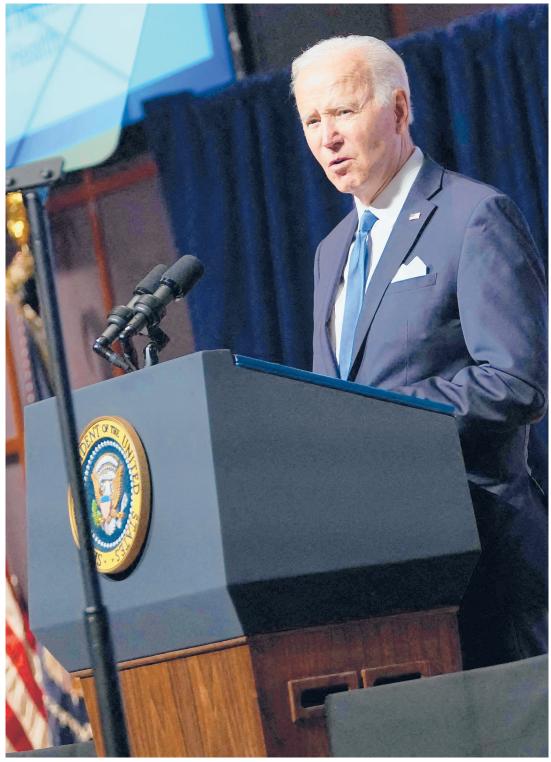
"We're going to fight this variant with science and speed, not chaos and confusion," the president said at the National Institutes of Health.

"Experts say the COVID-19 cases will continue to rise in the weeks ahead this winter, so we need to be ready," Biden said, adding that his new strategy "doesn't include shutdowns and lockdowns," and that he hoped for bipartisan backing.

Biden's announcement comes a day after the omicron variant was detected in the country for the first time — in California. On Thursday, two more cases were reported: a Minnesota resident who had recently traveled to New York City, and a Colorado resident who had recently traveled to Africa.

Turn to Biden, Page 3

More inside: Of the more than 60 people on two flights to the Netherlands from South Africa Friday who tested positive for the virus, at least 14 had the omicron variant. NEWS, PAGE 6



President Joe Biden explains his administration's response to the COVID-19 outbreak and the new variant now detected in multiple states Thursday. MANDEL NGAN/GETTY-AFP



Gov. Ned Lamont describes digital currency as "new finance" as business leaders gathered for a state-sponsored session in Hartford. **COURANT FILE**

Leaders optimistic on state's economy

Summit builds off momentum from crypto firm's move

By Christopher Keating
Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — When Barry Silbert, chief executive officer of a fast-growing cryptocurrency company, told his 300 employees in Manhattan about moving his headquarters to Connecticut, the reaction was less than enthusiastic.

"The common reaction was: Connecticut? Why?" Silbert told a crowd of nearly 400 business and political leaders at an economic summit in Hartford

Silbert, though, predicted that his industry-leading firm, Digital Currency Group, will prompt other companies to move, as well. After living and working in Manhattan for the past 20 years, Silbert, 45, decided to start a search that eventually turned down other spots in New York City and Westchester County, among others.

For years, politicians have complained about Connecticut's slow job and personal income growth, along with lamenting the high-profile departures of the headquarters of corporate giants like General Electric and United

Turn to Summit, Page 2

\$6M in pandemic relief set aside to help fill Hartford's vacant storefronts

By Rebecca Lurye
Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — The city of Hartford will direct up to \$6 million of federal COVID-19 relief to commercial property owners to help them move businesses into vacant storefronts, Mayor Luke Bronin announced Thursday.

The new Hart Lift program, which will be administered by the Hartford Chamber of Commerce, will award property owners grants of \$50 per square foot — up to

\$150,000 total — to cover the costs of building out street-level retail spaces for new tenants. The initiative will use up to 5% of the \$112 million in American Rescue Plan funds headed to Hartford over the next three years.

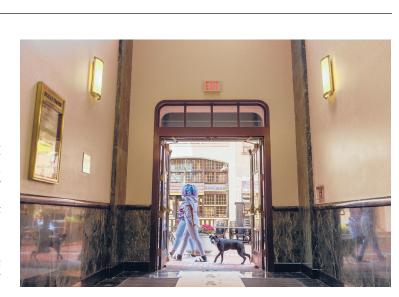
The grants must be matched at 100% in the downtown and 50% elsewhere in the city, with the investment coming from the property owner, business owner or a combination of the two.

"We think it's important they've got skin in the game," Bronin said

during a news conference on Capitol Avenue. "This is a really important opportunity to turn the challenges of the last year into a chance to help activate vacant store fronts and bring that vibrancy and activity and growth to our downtown and our neighborhoods alike."

Applicants to Hart Lift must be in good standing without any delinquent property taxes, and they must have vacant, ground-

Turn to Grants, Page 3



The front of 64 Pratt St. is shown empty in October. Hartford properties are now eligible for grants to cover the costs of building out street-level retail spaces for new tenants. MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT

Public hearing sought on COVID-19 relief spending

Republican lawmakers and community activists are demanding greater transparency about how federal COVID-19 funds were spent in the state. **CONNECTICUT, PAGE 1**

Puzzles ... Connecticut, 7, 9 Comics ... Connecticut, 8-9 Hartford Courant



FROM PAGE ONE

"There is a tremendous, tremendous opportunity to create the epicenter of a number of industries. I know my industry - fintech and crypto - we are going to turn Stamford into the crypto capital of the world. No doubt whatsoever."

Barry Silbert, CEO and founder of Digital Currency Group, which is moving its headquarters to Connecticut

Summit

from Page 1

Technologies. Connecticut, for example, is still struggling to replace all of the jobs wiped out by the pandemic.

But Thursday, Gov. Ned Lamont and the business leaders gathered for the state-sponsored session at the Bushnell in Hartford struck a more optimistic tone about Connecticut's future.

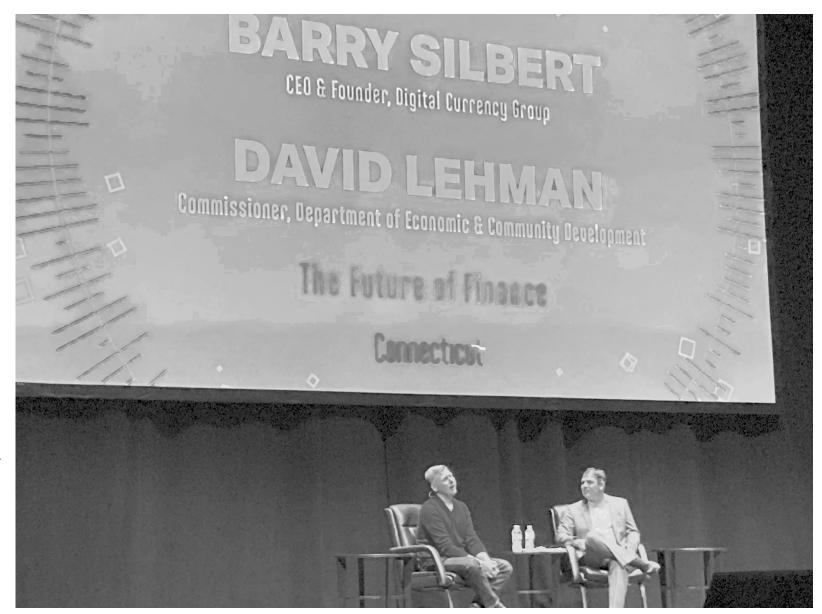
One of the key reasons for choosing Connecticut, Silbert said, was the direct cooperation of Lamont and his economic development chief, David Lehman, who crafted a package that will hand the company a \$5 million grant in return for creating 300 full time jobs here. The company was offered little help from New York City Mayor Bill De Blasio or former New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

"There is a tremendous, tremendous opportunity to create the epicenter of a number of industries," Silbert said on the stage of The Bushnell. "I know my industry – fintech and crypto — we are going to turn Stamford into the crypto capital of the world. No doubt whatsoever."

The transaction has generated controversy because a company fund operated by Lamont's wife, Annie, was an early investor in Digital Currency Group. Gov. Lamont said the interest was sold in April when Digital was searching for a new home — more than six months before the deal was announced with Connecti-

Created by Silbert in 2015, Digital serves as the parent company for seven subsidiaries and has invested in more than 200 blockchain companies.

One of its subsidiaries, known as Grayscale Invest-



Barry Silbert, chief executive officer of a privately held cryptocurrency company, is interviewed on the stage at The Bushnell in Hartford on Thursday by David Lehman, a former Goldman Sachs executive who serves as Gov. Ned Lamont's chief economic adviser. Silbert will be moving the Digital Currency Group headquarters to Stamford under a deal with the state. CHRISTOPHER KEATING/HARTFORD COURANT

ments, ranks as the world's largest digital currency asset manager with more than \$50 billion in assets under management. Along with Grayscale, an institutional trading subsidiary that is known as Trade-Block will move to Stamford.

After years of growth, the company now has about 1,000 employees worldwide and has a value of \$10 billion.

241-6221

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Blockchain technology provides a record of transactions made in bitcoin or another cryptocurrency that is monitored via a network of computers that are linked in a network.

Lamont describes digital currency as "new finance," and the former UBS building in downtown Stamford as "old finance."

In an earlier speech

to kick off the economic summit, Lamont said he spent 30 years as an entrepreneur in lower Fairfield County and often wondered what state officials were actually doing at the Capi-

"Sometimes we just couldn't figure out what was going on in Planet Hartford. That was a long way away" Lamont told the crowd.

"It wasn't that there was not a positive relationship. It's not that it was a negative relationship. It was almost that there was no relationship.'

That problem was among the reasons that GE eventually abandoned its longtime Fairfield headquarters under then-chief executive officer Jeffrev Immelt, who had succeeded Jack Welch. "When Immelt pulled up

Christopher Keating can be reached at ckeating@

said, 'We just didn't really have a relationship with the state,"" Lamont told the business leaders. "That's what David [Lehman] and DECD and myself have tried to

roots and GE left, and when

they said what was it, he

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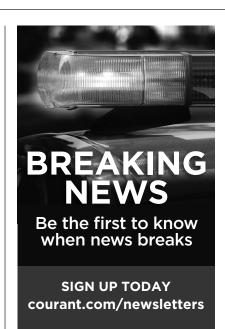
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Thursday, Dec. 2

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PLAY4 DAY PLAY3 DAY

8 0 4 ws: 9 4 2 0 1 ws: 5 The late lotto numbers were not drawn in time for this edition. For results, please visit courant.com/

lottery. WEDNESDAY'S LATE NUMBERS

PLAY3 NIGHT 7 0 8 ws: 5 **PLAY4 NIGHT**

6870 ws:1

CASH 5 11 22 23 24 32

LUCKY FOR LIFE 4 6 32 36 40 LB: 8 **POWERBALL**

12 15 38 57 63 PB: 24 PP: 2 Tonight's est. Lotto jackpot: \$2.4M Tonight's est. Mega Millions jackpot: \$112M Saturday's est. Powerball jackpot: \$278M



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In Canada, disasters keep coming

British Columbians fear climate change means a new normal

By Ian Austen The New York Times

PRINCETON, British Columbia – With light drizzle in the air, a young woman wiped away tears as she stood on the veranda of a newly renovated house. Its toilets and other plumbing fixtures sat beside her. Most of the house's other contents were on the street in a muddy pile.

Three doors down, a chain of soldiers in green camouflage fatigues stacked sandbags atop a rock-andearth dike intended to keep the Tulameen River out of modest homes on Allison Avenue. The engine noise and reverse warning beeps of a small excavator filled the air as it scraped up mud, soggy mattresses, end tables, chairs, tools and VHS cassettes of children's

The heavy rains that caused flooding in Princeton and across southern British Columbia were the third large-scale natural disaster this part of Canada has endured in six months — the likely cumulative effects of climate change, according to

climate experts.
Record-breaking heat waves, flooding and wildfires have killed hundreds of British Columbians and have highlighted Canada's vulnerability to extreme weather.

On their own, each event has caused widespread devastation, but they are perhaps even more profound, according to researchers, because they followed one another in this sequence, produc-



Sections of a highway near Spences Bridge, British Columbia, were washed out by flooding that struck the area last month. IAN WILLMS/THE NEW YORK TIMES

ing so-called "compound effects."

Western Canada suffered a blistering heat wave for much of the summer as record-high temperatures caused uncontrolled forest fires that burned one community to the ground.

Now, the region is facing washed-out roads and highways, mud-clogged houses and destroyed bridges after nearly a foot of rain poured from a weather event known as an atmospheric river long bands of water vapor that form over the Pacific Ocean and drift to North America every fall and winter. Forecasts of more heavy rainfall have renewed flooding worries and prompted precautionary closings of highway routes that had just reopened.

"We have not had this number of atmospheric rivers in such a short time period hitting into the coast," said Rachel White, a professor at the University of British Columbia who studies how large-scale atmospheric patterns contribute to extreme weather. "The scary possibility is that climate change is making those more likely and more frequent."

At least 12,000 British Columbians were displaced by the floods this week, most with no clear return date. Some communities remained evacuated.

Schools and one major railway route were closed. And large sections of highways critical to moving goods from Vancouver to the rest of Canada have been closed by landslides, flooding, washouts and collapsed bridges. Partial reopenings are weeks away for some highways and full restoration will take months, perhaps longer.

The cost remains anyone's guess.

"This won't be cheap, that's for sure," said Ian Pilkington, the province's chief engineer of highways. "But even at this point, we're still assessing and trying to figure out what we need to do.'

For many people in the province, looming above it all is a nagging fear that the weather turmoil is a sign of what climate change will bring.

Sam Parara, a bus driver in Vancouver, had planned to start a new life in a Princeton house he recently purchased and was renovating. As he carried a pile of objects so mud-covered as to be unidentifiable to the curb, Parara said he's concerned about the longterm implications of his province's weather disas-

"I've listened to David Suzuki talking about climate change for a long time," he said referring to

the Canadian broadcaster, geneticist and environmentalist. "All of a sudden, the climate is very unpredictable," he said. "Maybe we need to think about doing things in a different way."

While atmospheric rivers are the primary source of rainfall along the west coast, models show that atmospheric river storms are likely to strengthen and intensify from warmer air, which can hold more mois-

Last month in British Columbia, a pair of atmospheric river storms struck in quick succession. "Those back-to-back storms are where we get the biggest impact," said Marty Ralph, the director of the Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Ralph noted the second storm stalled, which can create longer rainfalls over one location. Those conditions "were sort of a kicker that pushed things over the edge."

Pilkington, the highway engineer chief, has been using helicopters to airlift equipment and workers into otherwise inaccessible areas that need rebuilding.

The temporary fixes to some main highways may take until the new year to complete, he said. But the long-term repairs will be guided by a new approach: climate forecasts, instead of historical data, to determine the height of bridges, the size of culverts and capacity of drainage systems.

"To now realize that historical data is not relevant and that if you rely on it, you'll under design every time - that's an interesting thing for engineers have to wrap their head around," he said.

Biden

from Page 1

Conquering pandemic — or at least bringing it under control is by far Biden's most daunting task, and it is especially complicated because it has become so divisive. He struck a theme of unity in his remarks, urging Americans to come together around his plan. White House officials, and Biden himself, have said the plan is aimed at keeping the economy and schools

Yet on Capitol Hill, Republicans threatened to shut down the government over Biden's vaccine rules for large employers, even as the president spoke.

Vaccine mandates have been held up in court, and Biden took pains to note that his current plan did not rely on lockdowns or vaccination requirements.

Biden is also imposing new testing rules on international travelers to the United States, requiring them to present evidence of a negative test within a day before departure.

He said the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is studying alternatives to quarantining in schools, including "test to stay" policies where exposed students remain in school, wear

masks and test again to avoid infection. And he promised the free at-home tests would be available in

"The bottom line is this winter, you'll be able to test for free in the comfort of your home and have some peace of mind," Biden said. Experts said the announcement on testing was partic-

ularly important. A big part of the plan is a renewed push to get people vaccinated, including the latest group to become eligible, children ages 5 to 11.

The administration plans to launch "hundreds of family vaccination clinics" that will offer vaccinations and boosters for people of all eligible ages, according to a fact sheet provided by the White House.

The plan also includes a national campaign to reach the 100 million Americans who are eligible for booster shots and have not had them.

The campaign will include paid advertising and free rides to vaccination sites coordinated by AARP, the advocacy group for older Americans.

And the Federal Emergency Management Agency will launch what the administration is calling Family Mobile Vaccination Clinics, beginning with deployments to Washington and New

The goal is for states and localities to replicate the model "with full federal funding and support," officials said.

Biden also called on employers to provide paid time off for employees to get boosters and extend the current mask mandate for people on airplanes, trains and buses, and in terminals and transit hubs, through mid-March.

Many experts predict a winter surge, regardless of whether omicron spreads widely in the country. The nation has been reporting an average of more than 80,000 new cases a day over the past few weeks, according to a New York Times database; six months ago, the average was roughly 12,000 new cases a day.

Much remains unknown about the COVID-19 omicron variant, which was first spotted by scientists in southern Africa and is now known to be present in more than 30 countries. It has mutations that scientists say may allow it to spread more quickly and cause more breakthrough infections in vaccinated or previously infected people, though neither characteristic has yet been confirmed.

Under the president's plan, at-home tests would be reimbursed for the 150 million Americans with private insurance. To ensure access for those who lack insurance, or who are covered by Medicaid, the administration intends to distribute an additional 15 million tests to community health centers and rural clinics.

Experts envision a world where people will test themselves as soon as they exhibit symptoms — and then, if they are positive, would go into isolation and seek treatment with new antiviral medicines. Early testing is important because the antivirals work best just after symptom onset.

The White House says it is taking steps to secure 13 million courses of antiviral treatments.

It was unclear how many tests a person could be reimbursed for buying, or how the reimbursement would work. Shah, of the state health officials association, said his group would prefer that people get reimbursed when they buy the tests in pharmacies, as opposed to having to file later for reimbursement.

Private insurers already cover the cost of tests administered in doctor's offices and other medical facilities. At least eight at-home tests are on the U.S. market.

Virus

from Page 1

uptick likely owes to cold weather forcing social gatherings indoors, where COVID-19 transmission occurs more easily. As of Thursday, the omicron variant has not been detected in the state.

Cases and positivity rate: Connecticut reported 1,627 new COVID-19 cases Thursday out of 24,940 tests, for a daily positivity rate of 6.52% — highest in a single day since Jan. 12. The state's seven-day positivity rate now stands at 4.99%, the highest it has been since Jan. 22.

The state has averaged nearly 1,000 daily COVID-19 cases over the past week, its highest in a seven-day span since mid-April.

All eight Connecticut counties — as well as the rest of those in the Northeast region — are currently recording "high" levels of COVID-19 transmission as defined by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. With this level of transmission, the CDC advises people to wear a mask in public indoor settings.

Hospitalizations: As of Thursday, Connecticut has 414 patients hospitalized with COVID-19, up 29 from Wednesday and the most at a time since April 27. Hospitalizations have now more than

doubled in less than a month. Hospital officials say

the vast majority of those hospitalized with serious COVID-19 symptoms are unvaccinated.

Deaths: Connecticut on Thursday reported 44 more coronavirus-linked deaths over the past eight days, bringing its total during the pandemic to 8,909. As COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations have surged in Connecticut over recent weeks, deaths have risen slightly but still remain far below the levels recorded last winter.

The United States has now recorded 782.742 deaths related to COVID-19, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University.

Vaccinations: As of Thursday, 84.2% of all Connecticut residents and 94.5% of those 12 and older had received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, while 72.1% of all residents and 82.6% of those 12 and older were fully vaccinated, according to the CDC.

Additionally, 26.1% of fully vaccinated Connecticut residents 18 or older have received a booster dose.

As of this month, all adults who received a Pfizer-BioN-Tech or Moderna vaccine at least six months ago are now eligible for a booster shot, along with all adults who received a Johnson & Johnson vaccine at least two months ago.

Grants

from Page 1

level space and a new tenant with a lease of at least three years. Property owners must also have been negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic to be eligible.

Joined by chamber representatives and local property owners, Bronin shared details of the program against the rainbow-colored backdrop of 379 Capi-

A mural brightens the empty shop, which was last occupied by Norma's Cafe, a nightclub, in 2016. The owner, Don Mancini, has been trying to change that while keeping his restaurant and bar on the corner afloat; Red Rock Tavern has been in the family for four generations.

"We were trying really hard before pandemic to

fix up the property here." Chelsey Mancini, Don's daughter, said Thursday during the news conference. "We wanted to get a business to come in and complement our neighborhood, our community, but of course the pandemic has made that really difficult and it continues to be a challenge."

She says she is excited to apply for the Hart Lift program and thinks it will make a difference in securing a new tenant.

Julio Concepción, a Democratic state representative and executive director of the chamber. said many property owners have made the same request throughout the last year and a half: funding to update their empty retail spaces for new tenants, including small business owners who can't afford a build-out themselves.

"I think this could be a

game changer here in the city of Hartford," Concepción said.

Bronin said he would like to see the initiative lay the foundation for long-term economic recovery in parts of the city that were struggling even before the health and economic crises caused by COVID-19.

As an example, Bronin pointed to the block where he stood, where developer Aaron Gill has renovated apartment buildings and attracted businesses such as Story and Soil coffee shop and Capital Ice Cream.

"We want to replicate that success throughout our neighborhood corridors and throughout our downtown," Bronin said.

Over the past five years, Gill and his wife, Maja have brought about a renaissance of this stretch of Capitol Avenue between Lawrence and Babcock streets. They plan to extend the renaissance deeper into Frog Hollow, which has been troubled for years by drug, gun and gang activity.

Less than two hours after the mayor spoke at the edge of the neighborhood, a 14-year-old boy was wounded in a shooting at the nearby intersection of Lawrence and Russ streets.

The Gills recently completed a pair of apartment renovations on the block, closer to Capitol Avenue. Units are renting for \$1,575 a month in the historic, Italianate buildings that previously contributed to Lawrence Street's blight.

The mayor said he also expects the Hart Lift program to work with Shelbourne Global Solutions LLC, the largest commercial landlord in downtown Hartford. Its properties include much

of Pratt Street, where retail vacancies persist despite Shelbourne's ongoing plan to transform the brickpaved, historic block into a hub of apartments, entertainment and arts.

As of October, about 35 properties for retail and restaurants remained unleased in Hartford's downtown area, which includes Pratt, Main, Temple, Asylum, Trumbull, Union and Pearl streets, according to data provided by the Hartford Chamber of Commerce.

The neighborhoods will not be ignored, though, said chamber chair Max Kothari, who is also CEO of Express Kitchens and Star Hardware in Hartford.

Both businesses received federal loans, since forgiven, under the Paycheck Protection Program. Kothari has helped the city spread the word about PPP and other

programs to small business owners in the North End, where his hardware store is located.

After 35 years in the North End, Kothari says he's never seen this level of economic activity.

"Hartford is definitely changing, and there's never been this many deals in the pipeline and the amount of things being done on a daily basis," Kothari said. "This program would have taken years to executive and I think we got a call a few weeks back, the mayor made some decisions and got this program rolling."

Property owners can fill out a pre-application on the Hartford chamber's website. Current or future business owners seeking space in the city can also inquire online.

Rebecca Lurye can be reached at rlurye @courant.com.

WORLD&NATION

Congress averts federal shutdown

Stopgap bill going to Biden will fund US through Feb. 18

By Kevin Freking and Lisa Mascaro Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate passed a stopgap spending bill Thursday that avoids a short-term shutdown and funds the federal government through Feb. 18 after leaders defused a partisan standoff over federal vaccine mandates.

The measure now goes to President Joe Biden to be signed into law.

Earlier in the day, congressional leaders announced they had finally reached an agreement to keep the government running for 11 more weeks, generally at current spending levels, while adding \$7 billion to aid Afghanistan evacuees.

Once the House voted to approve the measure, senators soon announced an agreement that would allow them to vote on it quickly.

"I am glad that in the end, cooler heads prevailed. The government will stay open and I thank the members of this chamber for walking us back from the brink of an avoidable, needless and costly shutdown," said Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y.

The Senate approved the measure 69-28.

The Democratic-led House passed the measure by a 221-212 vote. The Republican leadership urged members to vote no; the lone GOP vote for the bill came from Illinois Rep. Adam Kinzinger.

Lawmakers bemoaned the short-term fix and



Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell reiterated Thursday that there will not be a shutdown. CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY

blamed the opposing party for the lack of progress on this year's spending bills.

Rep. Rosa DeLauro, chair of the House Appropriations Committee, said the measure would, however, allow for negotiations on a package covering the full budget year through September.

"Make no mistake, a vote against this continuing resolution is a vote to shut government down," DeLauro said during the House debate.

Before the votes, Biden said he had spoken with Senate leaders and he played down fears of a shutdown.

"There is a plan in place

unless somebody decides to be totally erratic, and I don't think that will happen," Biden said.

Some Republicans opposed to Biden's vaccine rules wanted Congress to take a hard stand against the mandated shots for workers at larger businesses, even if that meant shutting down federal offices over the weekend by blocking a request that would expedite a final vote on the spending bill.

It was just the latest instance of the brinkmanship around government funding that has triggered several costly shutdowns and partial closures over the past two decades. The longest shutdown in history happened under President Donald Trump — 35 days stretching into January 2019, when Democrats refused to approve money for his U.S-Mexico border wall. Both parties agree the stoppages are irresponsible, yet few deadlines pass without a late scramble to avoid them.

Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, said Democrats knew last month that several Republicans would use all means at their disposal to oppose legislation that funds or allows the enforcement of the employer vaccine mandate. He blamed Schumer for ignoring their

position.

If the choice is between "suspending nonessential functions" or standing idle while Americans lose their ability to work, "I'll stand with American workers every time," Lee said.

Lee and Sen. Roger Marshall, R-Kan., authored an amendment that prohibited federal dollars being spent to implement and enforce a series of vaccine mandates put in place by the Biden administration. The amendment went down to defeat with 48 yes votes and 50 no votes. But having the vote opened the door to taking up the full spending bill immediately.

Lee said millions were being forced to choose between an unwanted medical procedure and losing their job

"Their jobs are being threatened by their own government," Lee said.

"Let's give employers certainty and employees peace of mind that they will still have a job this new year," Marshall urged before the vote.

Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., countered that the federal government should be using every tool to keep Americans safe and that is why the Biden administration has taken steps to urge employers to make sure their workers are fully vaccinated or test negative before they come to the workplace.

"No one wants to go to work and be worried they might come home to their family with a deadly virus," Murray said.

Murray said.

The White House sees the vaccinations as the quickest way to end a pandemic that has killed more than 780,000 people in the country and is still evolving, as seen with the new omicron variant being detected in California, Colorado and Minnesota.

Courts have knocked back against the mandates, including a ruling this week blocking enforcement of a requirement for some health care workers.

For some Republicans, the court cases and lawmakers' fears about a potentially disruptive shutdown were factors against engaging in a shutdown.

The administration has pursued vaccine requirements for several groups of workers, but the effort is facing legal setbacks.

US to resume Trump-era 'Remain in Mexico' policy

Migrants must wait to have hearings on immigration status

By Elliot Spagat
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Migrants seeking to enter the United States will again have to stay in Mexico as they await immigration hearings, as the Biden administration reluctantly announced plans Thursday to reinstate the Trump-era policy and agreed to Mexico's condi-

tions for resuming it.

Revival of the "Remain in Mexico" policy comes even as the Biden administration maneuvers to end it in a way that survives legal scrutiny. President Joe Biden scrapped the policy, but a lawsuit by Texas and Missouri forced him to put it back into effect, subject to Mexico's acceptance.

Mexico's foreign relations secretary said in light of U.S. concessions Mexico will allow returns, expected to begin next week, "for humanitarian reasons and for temporary stays."

Mexico's conditions include COVID-19 vaccinations for migrants, more protection in dangerous Mexican border cities, better access to attorneys and quicker resolution of

cases.

A b o u t 70,000 asylum-seekers have been subject to the policy, which President Donald Trump introduced in January 2019 and which Biden suspended on his first day in office.

Illegal border crossings fell sharply after Mexico, facing Trump's threat of higher tariffs, acquiesced in 2019 to the policy's rapid expansion. Asylum-seekers were victims of violence while waiting in Mexico and faced a slew of legal obstacles, such as access to attorneys and case information.

Migrants are expected to be returned starting Monday in one border city, which has not been identified.

It will eventually be done in seven locations: San Diego and Calexico in California; Nogales, Arizona; and the Texas border cities of Brownsville, Eagle Pass, El Paso and Laredo.

The Homeland Security
Department said Thursday
that it was acting to comply
with a court order but that
Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas believes the policy "has
endemic flaws, imposed
unjustifiable human costs,
pulled resources and
personnel away from other
priority efforts, and failed to
address the root causes of

irregular migration."

The dual announcements follow intense discussions between the U.S. and Mexico after U.S. District Judge Matthew Kacsmaryk, a Trump appointee in Amarillo, Texas, ordered the policy be reinstated, subject to Mexico's participation.

The policy's new iteration, outlined in a briefing for reporters and a court filing Thursday, promises major additions and changes that Mexico demanded.

All migrants subject to the policy will be vaccinated against COVID-19. Adults will get the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, which requires only one shot. Children who are eligible under U.S. guidelines will get the Pfizer shot, with second shots when they come to the U.S. for their first hearings.

The U.S. will try to complete cases within 180 days.

The Justice Department is assigning 22 immigration judges to work on these cases exclusively.

U.S. authorities will ask migrants if they fear being returned to Mexico instead of relying on them to raise concerns unprompted. If the migrants express fear, they will be screened and



Hundreds of migrants arrive Oct. 27 in Villa Comaltitlan in southern Mexico's Chiapas state as they continue their journey north to the U.S. border. MARCO UGARTE/AP

have 24 hours to find an attorney or representative.

The Biden administration is working to ensure migrants' safety when they travel to and from court, including within Mexico. Some migrants returned from Eagle Pass, Laredo and Brownsville, where Mexican border cities are especially dangerous, will be moved to locations farther inside Mexico.

The policy will apply to migrants from Western Hemisphere countries. U.S. officials haven't said how many will be processed daily. The administration has kept in place another Trump-era policy that allows it to return Central Americans to Mexico on the grounds of preventing the spread of COVID-19.

Migrants will have an opportunity to meet with attorneys before each hearing. The State Department is working with Mexico on locations for video and phone access to attorneys in the U.S.

But immigration advocates say the policy is beyond repair.

"The 'Remain in Mexico' policy was a humanitarian disaster when it was first implemented, and it is doomed to be so again," said Eleanor Acer, senior director for refugee protection at Human Rights First, which documented violence against asylum-seekers while they were waiting in Mexico.

The U.N. refugee agency renewed longstanding concerns on migrant safety and rights.

"The announced adjustments to the policy are not sufficient to address these fundamental concerns," the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees said in a state-



Antony Blinken, left, and Sergey Lavrov greet each other on Thursday in Stockholm. **JONATHAN NACKSTRAND/POOL VIA AP**

US warns Russia to keep away from Ukraine

By Vladimir Isachenkov Associated Press

MOSCOW — The Kremlin voiced concern Thursday about a possible escalation of fighting in a separatist conflict in eastern Ukraine as the U.S. issued a strong warning to Russia to stay away from Ukraine.

away from Ukraine.
Ukrainian and Western
officials have worried about
a Russian troop buildup
near Ukraine, fearing it
could herald an invasion.
But Moscow has insisted it

has no such intention and accused Ukraine and its Western backers of making up the claims to cover up their own allegedly aggressive designs.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken warned Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov at their meeting Thursday in Stockholm that "if Russia decides to pursue confrontation, there will be serious consequences," adding that "the best way to avert a crisis is through diplomacy."

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said in Moscow that "the Ukrainian authorities' aggressive and increasingly intensive provocative action on the line of contact" fueled fears about a possible flare-up of hostilities. He argued that recent statements from Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and other officials indicate that "the Ukrainian leadership doesn't exclude a forceful scenario."

Ukrainian officials have

denied an intention to reclaim the rebel regions by using force.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba tweeted after meeting with Blinken in Sweden that "we are closely working together on developing a comprehensive deterrence package ... to demotivate Russia from further aggressive moves."

Russia and Ukraine have remained in a tug of war since Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula in 2014.

Christie tries to save GOP, a spot for himself

By Jill Colvin Associated Press

NEW YORK — Chris Christie is everywhere.

The former New Jersey governor and onetime Republican presidential candidate denounced "conspiracy theorists" during a September appearance at the Ronald Reagan Library in California. He followed up with a speech in November to influential Republicans in Las Vegas, warning that the party will only succeed if it offers a "plan for tomorrow, not a grievance about yesterday."

In between, he's been interviewed by everyone from Laura Ingraham on Fox News to David Axelrod, a former adviser to President Barack Obama, on CNN.

On its face, Christie's publicity campaign is in service of "Republican Rescue," his new book that offers a prescription for his party: stop talking nonsense about 2020 and focus on the future — or keep losing elections. But the frenzied pace of his appearances and the increasingly obvious jabs at Donald Trump suggest Christie is plotting a political comeback with the 2024 campaign in mind.

Christie said he hadn't made a decision yet about his political future and wouldn't until after next year's elections. But he was blunt in saying he would run if he believes he can be elected.

"If I see a pathway to winning, I'll run," he said. "And I feel like I have the skills and the talent and the ability to be able to make a difference in our party and in the country. And I'm certainly, at 59 years old, not ready to retire. But I'm not going to do it if I don't see a pathway to winning. So that's why I'm not making any decision now."

One of the biggest questions that hangs over the 2024 campaign is whether



Ex-New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, a Republican, is undecided about running for president in 2024. CAROLYN KASTER/AP 2020

Trump will run again. If the former president does, polls suggest he would easily clinch the nomination. But until that's decided, Christie is testing the openness of GOP voters to someone who largely supports Trump's record but dismisses Trump's lies that the last election was stolen.

It's an approach that pits him against other Republicans who may run in 2024, including Rep. Liz Cheney of Wyoming and Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan, who have taken high-profile stands against Trump.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and Mike Pompeo, Trump's former secretary of state, have pitched themselves as fierce Trump loyalists. Former Vice President Mike Pence has tried to find something of a middle ground, highlighting his work alongside Trump but noting the two hold different views about the circumstances surrounding the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

As candidates largely break into pro- and anti-Trump camps, "there is a thing to being in a unique lane that does in fact endorse some of President Trump's policies but at the same time doesn't hesitate to criticize where Christie would disagree with him," said longtime GOP pollster Adam Geller. He worked on Christie's two winning New Jersey gubernatorial campaigns as well as Christie's 2016 presidential bid, followed by Trump's.

Others aren't so sure, arguing that Christie aligned himself with Trump until it was no longer politically convenient.

"It's clearly disingenuous," said Tim Miller, a former spokesperson for the Republican National Committee and a vocal Trump critic. "Chris Christie enabled Donald Trump maybe more than anyone in the establishment of the Republican Party. And now he wants to get the kudos of saying something that is reality but without any of the reflection about what he did to get us here."

Christie and Trump have had a complicated relationship during the nearly 20 years that they've been "friends."

As a U.S. attorney, Christie successfully prosecuted the father of Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner. Trump and Christie were fierce competitors for the GOP nomination in 2016. After Christie dropped out of the race, he became the first major elected official to endorse Trump, a move that lent legitimacy to the eventual president's campaign.

"The line of supporting Donald Trump starts behind me," Christie recently told Ingraham.

Christie stood in for Democrat Hillary Clinton during Trump's 2016 debate prep and was rewarded for his loyalty by being tasked with chairing the presidential transition. But after the election, Christie was fired from that role in a move seen

as retribution for the elder Kushner's prosecution. Still, Christie ultimately found his way back into Trump's inner circle, serving as an informal adviser and again helping with debate preparation

last year. But Christie describes Trump's reaction to the 2020 election won by Democrat Joe Biden as a breaking point. In appearances and interviews, Christie says he was "incredibly disappointed and disillusioned" by Trump's refusal to concede the election, which culminated in his followers' violent storming of the Capitol on Jan. 6 in an effort to halt the certification of Biden's win.

Christie now argues that the party must disavow Trump's lies and move past his grievances if it wants to succeed.

"As Republicans, we need to free ourselves from the quicksand of endless grievances. We need to turn our attention to the future and quit wallowing in the past. We need to face the realities of the 2020 election and learn — not hide — from them," he writes in the book, calling on the party to rid itself of conspiracies and focus on providing voters with a positive alternative to Democratic policies.

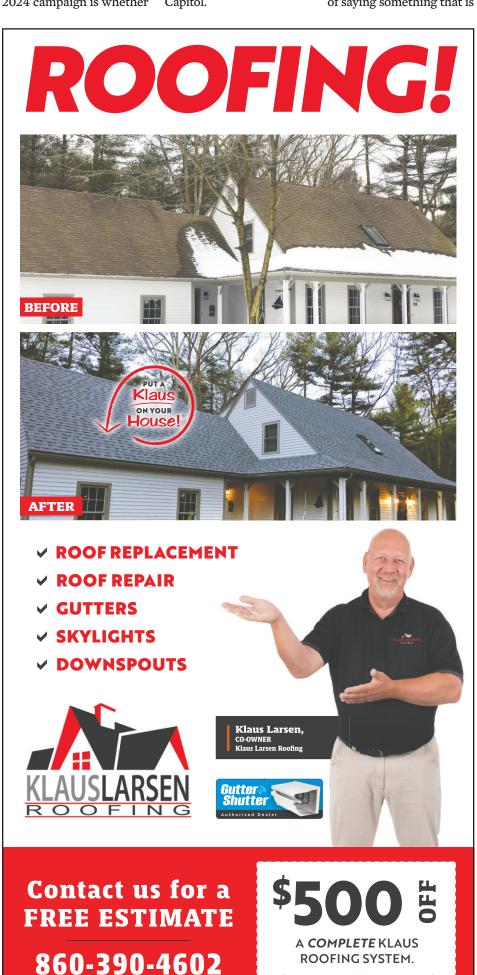
Trump has started hitting back. In a statement last month, the former president said Christie was "just absolutely massacred by his statements that Republicans have to move on from the past."

Christie dismissed the blowback. "Anybody can say whatever they want. These are my opinions. This is what I believe," he says, and he is already pondering how a 2024 campaign might look different from 2016. His previous bid was heavy on town hall-style events targeted to voters in New Hampshire, home to the nation's first presidential primary. Christie finished sixth there.

A second campaign, he said in the interview, would be different.

"You won't just see me wandering around up there. One of the things that I learned was, when I ran the first time, is motion isn't progress," he said. "I'm going to be very deliberate about what I do, both in the run-up to a decision and then certainly if I do decide to run, in how I conduct a campaign and try to make all the time I expend really count."

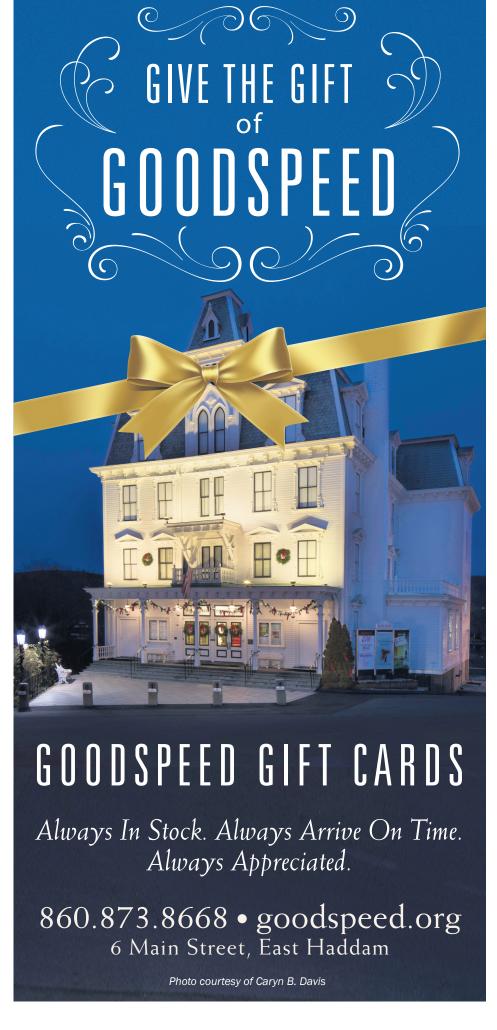
For now, Christie appears to be reveling in the attention of being back in the political game after a hiatus that included a bout with COVID-19 that landed him in the intensive care unit. He's working on a second book, co-chairing a national Republican group focused on redistricting strategy and serving as a top fundraiser for the Republican Governors Association, a group he once led, giving him access to some of the party's most consequential donors.



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2 flights may have spread variant

Lax mask wearing, different travel rules made things worse

By Jason Horowitz The New York Times

For the hundreds of passengers traveling from South Africa to Amsterdam last Friday, Flight KL592 had all the trappings of international travel in the COVID-

They came armed with paperwork proving their eligibility to fly, and check-in agents sifted through a bewildering assortment of requirements determined by final destination. Some countries, like the United States, required vaccinated travelers to show negative test results. Others didn't. On the long flight, only some wore masks, passengers said, as flight attendants often let the slipping masks

But while the flight was en route, and the passengers slept or watched their screens, everything changed on the ground.

Panic about the new omicron variant that had been discovered in southern Africa prompted countries to close their borders. The arrivals descended into a new post-omicron reality, and it was a hellish one, with hours spent breathing stale air as their planes sat on the tarmac, then fighting exhaustion in crammed waiting rooms, awaiting swab results in close quarters with fellow travelers who would turn out to be infected with the new and possibly more dangerous

We were in the same place, the same room," said one passenger, Jan Mezek, 39, a laboratory technician whose company services swab-test machines and returning from a two-week work trip to his home in Prague. "I felt like a pig in a pen," he said, adding "they were completely spreading



 $Several\ flights\ were\ canceled\ Saturday\ at\ O.R.\ Tambo\ International\ Airport\ in\ Johannesburg.\ A\ confounding\ array\ of\ rules\ and\ lax$ mask enforcement may have helped infected passengers from South Africa spread the virus. JOAO SILVA/THE NEW YORK TIMES

the virus around us."

Of the more than 60 on that and another KLM flight from South Africa who tested positive for the virus, at least 14 had omicron, Dutch officials said. The authorities have quarantined them — and arrested two who had tried to break out and fly to Spain — while requiring the hundreds who showed negative results from the PCR test at the airport to go home or board connecting flights to their final desti-

"They went around the world, who knows where," said Fabrizio Pregliasco, an Italian virologist at the University of Milan.

He said that all the passengers should have been quarantined or isolated and monitored closely for seven to 10 days, especially because they could have caught the virus on the flight and tested negative as it incubated.

"If this variant is very

contagious, this flight is an explosive bomb," Pregliasco said.

The flights, like the cruise ships of the early pandemic, have prompted fears of superspreader events and raised concerns about lessons unlearned. But they are also emblematic - with the varying testing and quarantining criteria, the inconsistent mask-wearing and confusion over contact tracing - of the scattershot global response, and often lax enforcement, that may worsen a possibly more infectious stage of the pandemic.

The omicron variant, though designated "very high" risk by the World Health Organization, is still an unknown variable. It will probably take weeks to know if it amounts to an overblown scare or a highly contagious new mutation with the ability to dodge the vaccines and potentially plunge the world back into lockdowns, packed hospitals and unattended funerals.

The security conferred by the vaccines and by planes with air filtration systems led the United States to open up to European Union travelers and other nationalities earlier this month, allowing for embraces, tears and giddy reunions long denied.

But European countries had different rules from those in the United States about the testing and self-isolation criteria required for vaccinated people to board a flight. The result was an often shifting patchwork of regulations by countries.

The rules for any given passenger on any given flight are generally determined by that person's final destination country, said Karen Grépin, a professor at the School of Public Health at the University of Hong Kong, who has been studying travel rules during the pandemic. Countries and often airlines have

their own testing requirements, and transferring passengers sometimes have to meet still different criteria.

But all that confusion and agita may soon seem like the good old days, when travel was at least possible.

After the emergence of the omicron variant in Africa last week, the United States and the European Union and other nations banned flights from southern Africa. Israel and Morocco slammed their doors on the world. Australia, Japan and other countries postponed opening up and joined China, which has adopted a fortress mentality as it seeks to vanguish the virus at home altogether.

For all the focus on the flights to the Netherlands, positive cases of omicron have emerged in at least 30 countries, including the United States, and experts consider its emergence everywhere inevitable.

A vaccinated Italian, who

has not been publicly identified, returned from business in Mozambique earlier in November to the southern town of Caserta. He said on Italian radio that he had tested negative before boarding his flight Nov. 11, as was required by Italy. Since he was traveling for work, he did not, per Italian rules, have to self-isolate upon return.

It was only during a medical checkup in Milan, where he also underwent a COVID-19 test so that he could return to Mozambique, that he tested positive for the virus, and then, amid the heightened attention to the new variant, for omicron, Now he and his wife and children, who are also positive for the virus, are in isolation.

On Tuesday, KLM, the airline that operated the two flights last Friday from South Africa, apologized to passen-

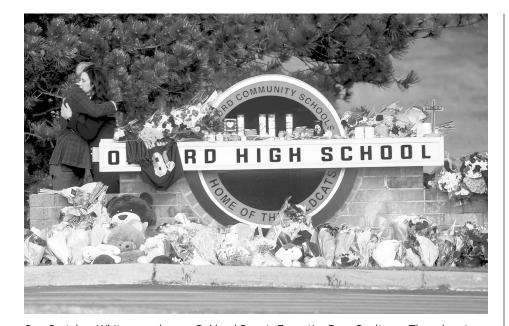
Mezek, who is vaccinated and tested negative, said he had received a call from the Dutch public health service Saturday, and then an email imploring him to stay home and supply it with his travel details after leaving the Netherlands.

"It is important to know your whereabouts, so that health departments in various countries can contact the transfer passengers, to prevent further spreading" of the omicron variant, according to the email.

It added that he should be tested again for COVID-19 five days after the South Africa-to-Amsterdam flight's

Mezek said he was in isolation, and had already received a call from the Czech authorities making sure he was staying put, and not sick. But he noted that if he had made his original connection, and landed a day earlier, before the Czech Republic tightened its rules, he would be at work and at home with his children and wife, a teacher.

"I wouldn't have been in isolation," he said.



Gov. Gretchen Whitmer embraces Oakland County Executive Dave Coulter on Thursday at a makeshift memorial outside Oxford High School in Michigan. JAKEMAY/THE FLINT JOURNAL

Charging decision expected for parents of Mich. shooter

By Corey Williams and Ed White Associated Press

OXFORD TOWN-SHIP, Mich. - A prosecutor considering criminal charges against the parents of a boy accused of killing four students at a Michigan school said Thursday their actions went "far beyond negligence" and that the gun "seems to have been just freely available" to the

Ethan Crumbley, 15, has been charged as an adult with two dozen crimes, including murder, attempted murder and terrorism, for a shooting Tuesday at Oxford High School in Oakland County, roughly 30 miles north of Detroit.

Four students were killed and seven more people were injured, including a student who remained in critical condition.

"All I can say at this point is those actions on mom and dad's behalf go far beyond negligence," Oakland County prosecutor Karen McDonald said. "We obviously are prosecuting the shooter to the fullest extent. ... There are other individuals who should be held accountable."

The semi-automatic gun was purchased by Crumbley's father last week, according to investigators.

"The parents were the only individuals in the position to know the access to weapons," McDonald told WJR-AM. The gun "seems to have been just freely available to that individual."

McDonald said she hopes to have an announcement regarding charges against Crumbley's parents within 24 hours. On Monday, McDonald acknowledged that charges were being considered.

Jennifer and James Crumbley did not return a message left by The Associated Press.

Sheriff Mike Bouchard disclosed Wednesday that the parents met with school officials about their son's classroom behavior, hours before the shooting.

McDonald said information about what had troubled the school "will most likely come to light soon."

Crumbley stayed in school Tuesday and later emerged from a bathroom with a gun, firing at students in the hallway, police said.

"I just can't get to a space right now to blame anybody who worked at that school. They were terrorized," McDonald said

The Oxford school district hasn't commented on the meeting with Crumbley's parents before the shooting.

There's no Michigan law that requires gun owners keep weapons locked away from children.

William Swor, a defense lawyer who is not involved in the case, said charging the parents would require a "very fact-intensive investigation."

"What did they know and when did they know it?" Swor said. "What advance information did they have about all these things? Did they know anything about his attitude, things of that nature. You're talking about a very heavy burden to bring on the parents."

Meanwhile, dozens of schools in southeastern Michigan canceled classes Thursday due to concerns about threatening messages on social media following the Oxford shooting.

Some schools staved open with a larger police

Ga. election workers file suit against conservative website

By Kate Brumback Associated Press

ATLANTA - Two Georgia election workers filed a defamation lawsuit Thursday against a conservative website, accusing it of knowingly publishing and spreading false stories saying they engaged in ballot fraud during the 2020

general election. **Fulton County elections** workers Ruby Freeman and Wandrea "Shaye" Moss, a mother and daughter, filed the lawsuit against The Gateway Pundit, its owner Jim Hoft and his brother. Joe Hoft, a contributor to the site. Among other things, the lawsuit says the website and the Hofts conducted a "campaign of lies" that led to online and in-person harassment

against the two women. The falsehoods "have not only devastated their personal and professional reputations but instigated a deluge of intimidation, harassment, and threats that has forced them to change their phone numbers, delete their online accounts, and fear for their physical safety," the suit says.

In response to a call to a cellphone number listed for Jim Hoft, The Associated Press received a text message saying, "Sorry, I can't talk now." No one responded to a voicemail or text message sent to that number. A working number for Joe Hoft could not be located. No one responded immediately to a request for comment sent through an online form on The Gate-

way Pundit's website. Angered by his narrow loss in a traditionally Republican state, former President Donald Trump focused intense scrutiny on Georgia, making unproven claims that widespread fraud there led to his loss in

A representative from Trump's legal team, Jacki



Fulton County election worker Wandrea Moss holds mail-in ballots to be scanned during Georgia's primary elections. ALYSSA POINTER/ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION 2020

Pick, spoke before a Georgia state Senate committee on Dec. 3, 2020, and showed part of a surveillance video from the room where ballots were counted at State Farm Arena in Atlanta. She said Republican observers were asked to leave the room late on election night and that once they were gone, election workers pulled out and counted hidden, fraudulent ballots, the lawsuit says.

Pick did not name the election workers in the video "but said 'one of them had the name Ruby across her shirt somewhere," the lawsuit says. Later that day, The Gateway Pundit was the first to publish Freeman's full name, and in a later story it also identified Moss, the lawsuit says.

The allegation that "suitcases" of ballots were pulled from under tables away from the eyes of observers was quickly debunked.

The Gateway Pundit and the Hofts perpetuated the debunked narrative, publishing stories and promoting them on social media even after they were aware it had been disproven, the lawsuit says.

In a phone call with Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger on Jan. 2, Trump pressed the Republican official to "find" votes for him and mentioned Freeman by name, calling her "a professional vote scammer and hustler."

Freeman worked as a temporary election worker during the 2020 election, verifying signatures on absentee ballots and preparing them to be counted and processed. Moss has worked for the Fulton County elections department since 2012 and supervised the absentee ballot operation during last year's election.

As allegations began to spread, Freeman received hundreds of emails, dozens of text messages and threatening phone calls, and strangers showed up at her house, the lawsuit says. The FBI concluded on Jan. 6 that she wouldn't be safe in her home, and she relocated for two months. She had to abandon her pop-up clothing boutique because she had to close its social media accounts.

Moss' teenage son was bombarded with threatening and racist messages after harassers found her old phone number, which he had taken over, the lawsuit says. Because she had previously lived with her grandmother, the suit says, strangers showed up at her grandmother's house at least twice and tried to enter to make a "citizen's arrest."

NEWS BRIEFING

Panel probing Jan. 6 Capitol riot has met with 250 people so far

From news services

WASHINGTON — The House committee investigating the Capitol insurrection has interviewed about 250 people so far, its chairman said Thursday, as lawmakers work to compile the most comprehensive account yet of the violent attack and hold public hearings next year.

Members and staff have conducted the interviews in private, and most witnesses have appeared voluntarily. The committee has subpoenaed more than 40 people, and lawmakers say that only two have defied their demands. The investigation began in July.

Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., disclosed the number of private interviews as he tried to make the case at a House hearing for contempt charges against Jeffrey Clark. a former Department of Justice official who championed then-President Donald Trump's efforts to reverse the 2020 election that Joe Biden

Thompson's committee has scheduled a second deposition with Clark for Saturday and says it will determine afterward whether to move ahead with the contempt

Looking to 2022, Rep. Liz Cheney, R-Wyo., and the vice chairwoman, said the committee anticipates it will hold "multiple weeks of public hearings, setting out for the American people in vivid color exactly what happed every minute of the day on January 6th, here at the Capitol and at the White House, and what led to that

violent attack." Lawmakers are moving to finish before the midterm elections, viewing their work as a crucial corrective to the growing tendency among Republicans and others to play down the siege by

Trump's supporters.

The mob echoed Trump's false claims that he won the election, beating police as rioters broke in and making lawmakers flee when they interrupted the certification of Biden's victory.

The seven Democrats and two Republicans on the committee argue that democracy is at stake as Trump considers a second run for office and as many Americans still believe his false claims of widespread fraud in the election, even though they have been rejected by courts and election officials across the country.

Child brought to riot: Federal prosecutors said Thursday that a North Carolina woman deserves a prison sentence for bringing her 14-year-old child into the U.S. Capitol during the Jan. 6 riot.

Virginia Marie "Jenny" Spencer and her husband, Christopher, had the child "in tow" when they joined other rioters who overwhelmed a line of police officers, invaded House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's office suite and demanded entry to the House chamber, prosecutors wrote in a sentencing memo.

Prosecutors recommended three months in prison for Jenny Spencer, who pleaded guilty in September to parading, demonstrating or picketing in a Capitol building. U.S. District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly is scheduled to sentence her Jan. 7.

Ohio deputy charged: The Ohio sheriff's deputy who shot Casey Goodson Jr. in the back five times was charged with murder Thursday.

The December 2020 shooting of Goodson, who was Black, by longtime deputy Jason Meade, who is white, led to protests in Columbus and many lingering questions, in part because



A man distributes bread Thursday in Kabul, Afghanistan. The country is facing multiple crises that are "progressively getting worse," with drought, economic collapse and displacement pushing the population into catastrophic hunger, according to a senior official with the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, PETROS GIANNAKOURIS/AP

the killing wasn't recorded on body or dash camera footage.

Meade's lawyer says the deputy fired when Goodson pointed a gun at him. Goodson's family has said he was holding a sandwich, but noted he also had a license to carry a firearm.

The case remains under criminal investigation by the U.S. attorney's office with help from the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division.

The shooting happened as Meade, a 17-year member of the sheriff's office, was finishing an unsuccessful search for a fugitive with a U.S. Marshals Service task force. Goodson was not the subject of the fugitive search and the Marshals have said Meade wasn't performing a mission for them at the time of the shooting.

Archbishop resigns: Pope Francis on Thursday accepted the resignation of the archbishop of Paris, who offered to step down last week after admitting to an "ambiguous" relationship with a woman in 2012.

Paris Archbishop Michel Aupetit said in a statement Thursday that he offered to step down "to preserve the diocese from the division that suspicion and loss of trust are continuing to provoke."

The Vatican said in a statement that the pope accepted Aupetit's offer, and named Monsignor Georges Pontier to serve temporarily in his place pending the pontiff's appointment of a permanent new archbishop.

The Vatican gave no reason for why Francis had accepted Aupetit's resignation, or why the decision had come so quickly.

Sanctions on Belarus: The United States, European Union, Britain and Canada slapped simultaneous sanctions Thursday on dozens of officials, organizations and companies in Belarus, with the EU taking aim at those accused of participating in a "hybrid attack" on the bloc using migrants.

The three countries and the 27-nation EU have targeted Belarus since President Alexander Lukashenko won a sixth term last year in an election that the West and other observers say was fraudulent, and over the security crackdown on peaceful protestors that followed.

The U.S. State Department said the U.S. Treasury has "identified three aircraft as blocked property and designated 32 individuals and entities, including Belarusian state-owned enterprises, government officials, and other persons, who support the regime and facilitate its repression."

The EU, meanwhile, imposed travel bans and asset freezes on 17 more people, including senior border guard and military officials, government representatives and judges.

Britain said it had imposed sanctions "on eight Belarusian individuals responsible for repression and human rights violations."

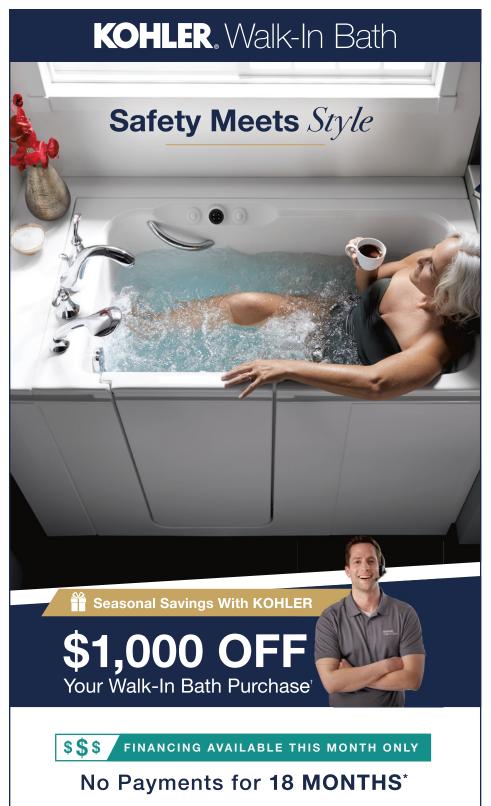
Belarus' Foreign Ministry charged that the new sanctions aim to "economically stifle Belarus."

Philanthropist slain: A man has been arrested in the death of philanthropist Jacqueline Avant, who was fatally shot this week at the Beverly Hills home she shared with her husband, legendary music executive Clarence Avant, police said Thursday.

Aariel Maynor, 29, is on parole and was taken into custody early Wednesday by Los Angeles police at a separate residence, police said.

Police recovered an AR-15 rifle at that home that was believed to have been used in the shooting of Jacqueline Avant. Maynor accidentally shot himself in the foot with the gun, police said, and is being treated before he can be booked into jail.

Police have not vet determined Maynor's motive. It was not immediately known if Maynor had an attorney.



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OPEC+ alliance sticking to modest hike in output

Uncertainty over omicron variant may mean drop in oil demand, experts say

By Cathy Bussewitz and Ellen Knickmeyer

Associated Press

NEW YORK - OPEC and allied oil-producing countries decided Thursday to maintain the amount of oil they pump to the world even as the new omicron variant casts a shadow of uncertainty over the global economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic.

Officials from OPEC countries, led by Saudi Arabia, and their allies, led by Russia, voted to stick with a pre-omicron pattern of steady, modest monthly increases in oil releases — a pace that has frustrated the United States and other oil-consuming nations as gasoline prices rise.

The OPEC+ alliance approved an increase in production of 400,000 barrels per day for the month of January.

The fast-mutating variant led countries to impose travel restrictions when it emerged late last week. In a worst-case scenario, lockdowns triggered by omicron could cut oil demand by nearly 3 million

barrels per day in early 2022, according to projections by Rystad Energy.

Positive news about drugs to treat the variant or the vaccines' effectiveness against it could improve that outlook. But even with positive news, a decrease in oil demand is likely because "the distribution of these remedies may not actually reach all markets with extreme immediacy, which would still necessitate the lockdowns in much of the developing world," said Louise Dickson, senior oil markets analyst for Rystad.

The decision by OPEC+ to stay the course sends a signal that "the group does what it says and that they will continue their policy on their own terms," Dickson said. "It also really signals that OPEC+ needs a bit more time to really dig into the numbers on the omicron variant.

Before omicron's appearance, the OPEC+ meeting had been shaping up as a potentially fraught moment in a growing dispute between oil-supplying nations and oil-consuming ones.

Angering the U.S. and its allies, OPEC+

has stuck to a plan to open the petroleum taps bit by bit — even as oil prices surged to seven-year highs - until deep production cuts made during the depths of the pandemic are restored.

With rising gas prices putting him under political pressure at home, President Joe Biden last week responded to OPEC's refusal to increase supplies more quickly by announcing the U.S. and other nations would release tens of millions of barrels of oil from their strategic reserves, boosting supplies and temporarily lowering prices. But gasoline prices in the U.S. barely moved.

And then, omicron's emergence unsettled those dynamics.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said there are no plans to slow releases from strategic reserves, despite the advent of the variant and OPEC's decision.

"We welcome the decision today to continue the 400,000 barrels-per-day increase," Psaki said. "We believe this should help facilitate the global economic recovery."

OPEC+ is scheduled to meet again Jan. 4.



Racially diverse Barbie dolls are among the toys that are hard to find this holiday season. PATRICKT. FALLON/GETTY-AFP

Holiday challenge for charities

Ongoing bottlenecks in the supply chain mean shortages of gifts for children in need

By Haleluya Hadero **Associated Press**

With just over three weeks to go until Christmas, Kristyn Begari has been rushing to find enough doll styling heads to give to kids in need.

But, the purchasing coordinator for the California-based nonprofit Family Giving Tree says it's been difficult to find them, or racially diverse Barbies or Disney princess dolls. Others charities who give to kids during the holidays say they're also facing challenges finding enough gaming consoles, laptops and other electronic items amid the global shortage of chips used in cars, phones and other devices.

"I've never seen something like this," Begari said. "Our biggest fear is we're not going to get the quality of gifts that we want, or we're not going to have enough."

Attempting to grant thousands of holiday wish requests has always been challenging for Begari. But it's been downright miserable this year as the global supply chain bottlenecks create shortages on many

items, making it difficult to grant many holiday wishes for the 34,000 children and adults the organization expects to aid in the Bay Area this holiday season.

Some wholesale vendors have already informed her that purchases will not arrive giving her the option of getting a refund, or buying another item. If a child doesn't get their preferred gift, she said the organization will attempt to grant their "second wish," or find another replacement item.

Similar worries are being felt across the country as supply chain snafus - produced by clogged U.S. ports, a lack of workers to move the cargo and skyrocketing shipping costs - lead to empty store shelves and higher prices on some products.

The supply chain slowdown is one of the main reasons why donations of new toys to The Toy Foundation have declined by nearly 80% in dollar value this year compared to 2019, according to Pamela Mastrota, the executive director of the group, which was formed by a toy industry trade association to act as an industry-wide

charitable collective for manufacturers. The lack of trade shows due to the COVID-19 pandemic also put a wrench in their collection efforts for the second year

Last month, President Joe Biden

announced plans to establish around-theclock operation at the Port of Los Angeles. the nation's largest. Port officials have said some of the bottleneck has since eased, but experts note it will take a long time before things get back to normal.

Toys for Tots, the nation's most well known toy donation drive run by the United States Marine Corps Reserve, is not expecting shortages, said David Cooper, the organization's vice president of operations. He said the organization purchased about \$16.5 million worth of toys this spring to mitigate any impact supply chain issues might have on donations.

There are concerns more families might register to receive toys from them this year due to higher costs. However, a Toys for Tots spokesperson says early indicators for their holiday collection efforts point in a positive direction.

Some of their donations in the past have gone towards The Salvation Army's Angel Tree program, which also collects gifts for children and families in need during the holidays. The organization estimates about 5 million gifts are donated each year though the program. Though this year, Kenneth Hodder, Salvation Army's commissioner, says there are concerns many kids might not receive their gifts on time.

Kellogg's workers to get 3% raise in new deal

By Josh Funk

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. – Kellogg's has reached a tentative agreement with its 1,400 cereal plant workers that will deliver 3% raises and end a nearly two-monthlong strike.

The five-year deal with the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union also includes cost of living adjustments in the second through the fifth years of the contract and it maintains the workers' current health benefits, the company said Thursday.

Kellogg's workers who have been on strike since Oct. 5 will vote on the new contract

The new deal covers workers at all its U.S. cereal plants — Battle Creek, Michigan; Omaha, Nebraska; Lancaster, Pennsylvania; and Memphis. Tennessee.

The deal also addresses the two-tiered system of wages that had been a sticking point for the union.

The system gives newer workers less pay and fewer benefits and it includes up to 30% of the workforce at the plants. The Battle Creek-based company said the agreement will allow all workers with at least four years of experience to move up to the higher legacy pay level immediately and additional workers would move up in the later years of the contract.

Last month, Kellogg's went to court in Omaha to secure an order that set guidelines for how workers behave on the picket line because the company said striking workers were blocking entrances to its cereal plant and intimidating replacement workers.
Union officials denied any improper

The union held out for higher wages after employees had been working long hours over the past 18 months to keep up with demand during the pandemic.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

China OKs 737 Max to fly again

BEIJING — China's aviation regulator cleared the Boeing 737 Max on Thursday to return to flying with technical upgrades more than two years after the plane was grounded worldwide following two fatal crashes in 2018 and 2019 that killed a total of 346 people.

China is the last major market where the Boeing 737 Max was awaiting approval after the United States allowed flights to resume in December 2020 and European Union regulators gave permission in January.

Investigators blamed a computer system that pushed the plane's nose downward in flight and couldn't be overridden by pilots.

Chinese pilots will need to complete new training before flights can begin, the Civil Aviation Administration of China said.

More Popshelf stores to pop up

Getting more bang for your buck used to be the mantra of dollar store shoppers everywhere, but times are changing — and prices are rising.

As consumers continue to contend with escalating prices thanks to inflation, discount retail chains like dollar stores are rethinking their pricing strategies. Dollar Tree announced last month that it will be boosting prices to \$1.25 for most of its products. And now Dollar General is looking to roll out more of its Popshelf stores, where most items cost \$5 or less.

There are 36 Popshelf stores open, and Dollar General said Thursday that it anticipates nearly tripling that number by next year and plans to have about 1,000 Popshelf locations by the end of fiscal 2025.

Starbucks fighting growing push to unionize

By Dee-Ann Durbin **Associated Press**

Starbucks is fighting an expanded effort to unionize its stores, even as a union vote proceeds at three of the coffee chain's locations in Buffalo, New York.

Union organizers from three additional Buffalo-area stores appeared before the National Labor Relations Board on Thursday, asking to hold union votes at each of their stores. The workers say they want more input on pay and store operations and they're seeking representation by Workers United, an affiliate of the Service Employees International Union.

Starbucks' attorney at the hearing reiterated the company's request to conduct one vote with all 20 stores in the Buffalo area. The labor board hearing is expected to last for several days.

In late October, the labor board in the Buffalo region approved union votes at three separate Buffalo-area stores. Starbucks has appealed that ruling to the full labor board in Washington, but voting began last month despite that appeal.

The labor board could count those votes as early as Dec. 9. Starbucks has said around 111 employees are eligible to vote at those three stores.

Starbucks has never had unionized workers in the U.S. in its 50-year history. The Seattle-based company has 8,000 compa-

ny-owned U.S. stores. Starbucks attorney Alan Model noted Thursday that 45.5% of baristas and shift supervisors in the Buffalo area worked at more than one store in the company's 2021 fiscal year, which ended Oct. 3. That helps the company meet shifting customer demand at its locations, Model said.

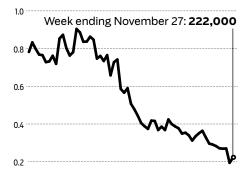
But Ian Hayes, an attorney for Workers United, said the labor board has already determined that individual store union elections are appropriate.

"Labor relations takes place at the store level," he said. Hayes also said it's uncommon for baristas to work at different stores.

In the meantime, the unionization effort is spreading. On Nov. 18, workers at a Starbucks store in Mesa, Arizona, filed paperwork with the labor relations board asking for their own union election.

Jobless claims

Initial unemployment claims, seasonally adjusted, in millions per week



0 N D J F M A M J J A S O N

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor

BUSINESS



Bishop Richard Howell Jr. stands among hundreds of panels on the roof of Shiloh Temple International Ministries, also a "community solar" provider, in Minneapolis. JIM MONE/AP

'Community solar' providers helping meet energy demand

By John Flesher Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS Strolling his church's rooftop among 630 solar panels, Bishop Richard Howell Jr. acknowledged climate change isn't the most pressing concern for his predominantly Black congregation even though it disproportionately harms people of color and the poor.

"The violence we're having, shootings, killings, COVID-19," Howell said wearily. "You're trying to save families, and right now no one's really talking about global warming.

Yet his Shiloh Temple International Ministries in north Minneapolis welcomed the opportunity to become one of many "community solar" providers popping up around the U.S. amid surging demand for renewable energy.

Larger than home rooftop systems but smaller than utility-scale complexes, they're located atop buildings, or on abandoned factory grounds and farms. Individuals or companies subscribe to portions of energy sent to the grid and get credits that reduce their electricity bills.

The model attracts people who can't afford rooftop installations or live where solar is not accessible, such as renters and owners of dwellings without direct sunlight.

"We're helping fight this climate war and blessing families with lower costs, Howell said.

Nearly 1,600 community solar projects, or "gardens," are operating nationwide, according to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, Colorado. Most are in Minnesota, Massachusetts, New York and Colorado, although 41 states and Washington, D.C., have at least one. Florida has relatively few but they're big enough to make the state a leading producer.

Together they generate some 3.4 gigawatts enough for about 650,000 homes — or roughly 3% of the nation's solar output. But more than 4.3 gigawatts are expected to go online within five years, says the Solar Energy Industries

Yet it's unclear how big a role community solar will

play in the U.S. transition to renewables.

The Biden administration is continuing a \$15 million Energy Department initiative begun in 2019 to support its growth, particularly in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods. The department announced a goal in October of powering the equivalent of 5 million households with community solar by 2025, saving consumers \$1 billion.

But power regulation happens at the state level, where interest groups are fighting over what defines community solar and who should generate it.

The Solar Energy Industries Association says the label should apply only where private developers and nonprofit cooperatives, not just utilities, can operate solar gardens and send power to the grid. The association says 19 states and Washington, D.C., have such policies.

Utilities say having too many players could unravel regulatory structures that assure reliable electric service. They warn of disasters such as last winter's deadly blackout in Texas.

'Simpsons' episode critical of China missing in Hong Kong

By Vivian Wang The New York Times

HONG KONG - An episode of "The Simpsons" that ridicules Chinese government censor-ship appears to have been censored on Disney's newly launched streaming service in Hong Kong, adding to fears about the shrinking space for free expression and criticism in this city.

Other episodes of the show are available on Disney+, which made its much-anticipated debut in Hong Kong last month. But in season 16, the archive skips directly from episode 11 to episode 13, omitting episode 12, "Goo Goo Gai Pan," in which the Simpson

family travels to Beijing.
There, they visit the embalmed body of Mao Zedong, whom Homer Simpson calls "a little angel that killed 50 million people." In another scene, the family passes through Tiananmen Square, where a plaque says "On this site, in 1989, nothing happened" a jab at the Chinese government's attempts to suppress public memory of the massacre, in which the army opened fire on students and other pro-democracy protesters.

Concerns about censorship have grown in Hong Kong since June, when Beijing imposed a sweeping national security law to crush monthslong anti-government protests. Hong Kong, a former British colony, was promised at least 50 years of civil liberties after its return to Chinese control in 1997. But under the law, many of those liberties have vanished, with news outlets muzzled, songs banned and museums closely regulated.

The government this year also expanded its film censorship powers, enabling it to block distribution of films, domestic or foreign, that it deemed to undermine



Disney+ in Hong Kong is not streaming an episode of "The Simpsons" that lampooned China. PETER PARKS/GETTY-AFP

national security.

It was not clear whether Disney chose to omit the "Simpsons" episode, which first aired in 2005, or was asked to do so by government regulators. Disney did not respond to an inquiry, and Hong Kong's communications authority declined to comment. But the bureau of commerce and economic development said in a statement that the film censorship ordinance applies only to movies, not streaming

That suggests that Disney preemptively censored itself, said Grace Leung, an expert in media regulation at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

"Disney obviously sent out a clear signal to the local audience that it will remove controversial programs in order to please" the Chinese government, Leung said.

Disney, and Hollywood more broadly, have made no secret of their appetite for the enormous mainland Chinese market. Disney in particular has frequently drawn criticism for its perceived willingness to make capitulations in order to reach it.

Its live-action remake of "Mulan," released last year, faced widespread calls for boycotts because its credits thanked eight government entities in Xinjiang, the far

western region in China where the government has been harshly suppressing the Uyghur ethnic minority. Parts of the movie had been filmed there.

In 1998, Disney's chief executive at the time, Michael Eisner, apologized to the Chinese premier for producing the Martin Scorsese film "Kundun," about Chinese oppression of the Tibetan people and the Dalai Lama; Eisner called the movie a "stupid mistake." In 2016, filmmakers on "Doctor Strange" rewrote a Tibetan character as Celtic - in part to avoid offending the Chinese government, according to a screenwriter.

Disney+ is not yet available in mainland China, although the company has said it plans to launch in "all major countries."

In Hong Kong, the "Simpsons" episode is not the only creative work to come under scrutiny for touching on Tiananmen Square.

Ahead of the opening last month of M+, a new art museum in Hong Kong, lawmakers called for a ban on a photograph by Ai Weiwei, perhaps China's most famous artist, who is now living in exile. In the photograph, which the museum has since removed from its online archive, Ai is raising his middle finger in front of Tiananmen Square.

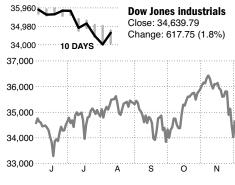
MARKET RUNDOWN

Friday, December 3, 2021









J	J A	5	O N	ш						
Domestic Indexes										
	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD							
DOW Indus.	34,639.79	+617.75	+13.18%	1						
DOW Trans.	15,949.23	+455.68	+27.52%	-						
DOW Util.	904.10	+11.61	+4.56%							
NYSE Comp.	16,475.25	+341.36	+13.43%							
Nasdaq Comp.	15,381.32	+127.27	+19.34%							
S&P 500	4,577.10	+64.06	+21.86%	ı						
S&P 400	2,737.29	+72.77	+18.67%	1						
Wilshire 5000	46,902.70	+727.13	+18.87%							

2,206.33

Russell 2000

+58.91

Commodities									
FUELS	CLOSE	PREV.	YTD						
Crude Oil (bbl)	66.50	65.57	+37.06%						
Natural Gas (mm btu)	4.06	4.26	+59.75%						
Unleaded Gas (gal)	1.97	1.95	+38.20%						
METALS	CLOSE	PREV.	YTD						
Gold (oz)	1,760.70	1,781.60	-6.99%						
Silver (oz)	22.28	22.30	-15.39%						
(Previous and change figures	reflect curren	t contract.)							

	<u> </u>								
Forei	gn Excl	nange	Money	/ Rate	S				
		U.S. \$ in ForEx		CLOSE	PREV. WK.				
Britain Canada China Euro Japan Mexico	1.3298 .7804 .1568 1.1297 .008836 .046855	6.3771 .8852 113.18	Prime rate 3-mo. T-Bill 6-mo. T-Bill 5-yr T-Note 10-yr T-Note 30-yr T-Bond		3.25 0.06 0.10 1.16 1.49 1.83				

Global Markets									
	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG.	%YTD					
Frankfurt London Hong Kong Nikkei	15,263.11 7,129.21 23,788.93 27,753.37	-209.56 -39.47 +130.01 -182.25	55% +.55%	+11.26% +10.35% -12.64% +1.13%					

Stocks of Local Interest

+11.72%

			YTD				YTD	
STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG	STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG	
AMC Entertainment A (AMC	30.28	+1.71	+1328.3	Lucid Group Inc (LCID)	48.41	-2.73	+80.4	
AT&T Inc (T)	23.05	+.82	-19.9	MGM Resorts Intl (MGM)	41.23	+2.93	+30.8	
Adv Micro Dev (AMD)	150.68	+1.57	+64.3	Magellan Health Inc (MGLN)	94.62	+.25	+14.2	
American Airlines Gp (AAL)	17.42	+1.14	+10.5	Meta Platforms Inc (FB)	310.39	21	+13.6	
Amphenol Corp (APH)	81.46	+1.47	•••	Meten Holding Group (MET)	() .30	+.01	-84.9	
Annaly Capital Mgmt (NLY)	8.21	+.23	-2.8	MetLife Inc (MET)	59.33	+2.22	+26.4	
Apple Inc (AAPL)	163.76	-1.01	+23.4	Microsoft Corp (MSFT)	329.49	59	+48.1	
Arbutus Biopharma (ABUS)	4.31	30	+21.4	Norwegian Cruise Ln (NCLH)		+1.37	-24.7	
Ardelyx Inc (ARDX)	1.70	+.47	-73.7	Novartis AG (NVS)	79.95	+.13	-15.3	
Avangrid Inc (AGR)	49.42	-1.43	+8.7	Nvidia Corporation (NVDA)	321.26	+6.91	+146.1	
Bank of America (BAC)	44.89	+1.26	+48.1	Otis Worldwide Corp (OTIS)	82.85	+2.40	+22.6	
Barnes Group (B)	45.24	+1.62	-10.8	Palantir Technol (PLTR)	19.69	+.31	-16.4	
Biofrontera Inc (BFRI)	5.25	+.92	+19.0 -2.5	Peoples Utd Fncl (PBCT)	17.42	+.78	+34.7	
Booking Holdings (BKNG) Brist Myr Sqb (BMY)	2171.93 55.41	+.46	-2.5 -10.7	Pfizer Inc (PFE)	53.04	-1.64	+44.1	
CVS Health Corp (CVS)	89.99	+1.21	+31.8	Pitney Bowes (PBI)	6.83	+.16	+10.9	
Carnival Corp (CCL)	17.89	+1.51	-17.4				-48.8	
Carrier Global Corp (CARR)	55.52	+1.92	+47.2	Progenity Inc (PROG) Prudential Fncl (PRU)	2.72		+32.5	
Charter Communic (CHTR)	670.40	+36.20	+1.3		103.42	+3.37		
Cigna Corp (CI)	197.79	+3.07	-5.0	Pub Svc Ent Gp (PEG)	63.17	+.73	+8.4	
Citiaroup (C)	63.81	+1.29	+3.5	Raytheon Technolog (RTX)	81.66	+2.61	+14.2	
Cleveland-Cliffs Inc (CLF)	20.13	+.46	+38.3	Rogers Corp (ROG)	271.00		+74.5	
Comcast Corp A (CMCSA)	51.50	+2.42	-1.7	SS&C Technlogies (SSNC)	75.96	+1.91	+4.4	
Delta Air Lines (DAL)	36.64	+3.11	-8.9	SoFi Technologies (SOFI)	16.43	+.04	-27.5	
Disney (DIS)	147.20	+5.05	-18.8	Stanley Black & Deck (SWK)		+5.57	-1.1	
DraftKings Inc (DKNG)	31.30	+.06	-32.8	Starwood Prop Trust (STWD		+.75	+32.5	
EMCOR Group Inc (EME)	124.30	+4.79	+35.9	Sundial Growers Inc (SNDL)	. 59	+.03	+24.9	
Ethan Allen (ETD)	23.41	+.92	+15.8	Terex Corp (TEX)	43.35	+2.36	+24.2	
Eversource Energy (ES)	83.08	+.68	-4.0	Travelers Cos (TRV)	150.16	+4.68	+7.0	
Exxon Mobil Corp (XOM)	61.28	+1.49	+48.7	Uber Technologies (UBER)	38.12	+2.10	-25.3	
Ford Motor (F)	19.87	+.29	+126.1	United Rentals (URI)	339.42	+6.60	+46.4	
FuelCell Energy (FCEL)	8.15	+.18	-27.0	UnitedHealth Group (UNH)	446.02	+1.68	+27.2	
Gen Dynamics (GD)	194.48	+5.03	+30.7	Verizon Comm (VZ)	50.73	+.96	-13.7	
Gen Electric (GE)	95.23	+2.23	+10.5	ViacomCBS Inc B (VIAC)	29.56	14	-20.7	
General Motors Co (GM)	61.02	+2.96	+46.5	Virtus Invest (VRTS)	302.55	+14.47	+39.4	
Grab Holdings Ltd A (GRAB)		. 2 00	. 20 0	Voya Financial (VOYA)	63.46	+1.64	+7.9	
Hartford Fn Sv (HIG)	67.06 204.00	+2.09	+36.9	Webster Financial (WBS)	54.72	+2.11	+29.8	
Honeywell Intl (HON)		+4.58 +.04	-4.1	Wells Fargo & Co (WFC)	48.91	+1.70	+62.1	
Horizon Tech Fin (HRZN)	16.67 23.44	+1.00	+25.9 +38.3	White Mtns Insur (WTM)	998.00	+8.24	3	
Infosys Ltd (INFY) Intel Corp (INTC)	49.50	+1.00	+38.3 6	World Wrestling Ent (WWE)	49.13	+1.42	+2.2	
Kaman (KAMN)	39.84	+1.58	-30.3	XPO Logistics Inc (XPO)	74.53	+4.22	+7.5	
Keycorp (KEY)	22.83	+.77	+39.1	Xerox Holdings Corp (XRX)	19.90	+.74	-14.2	
Kroger Co (KR)	44.65	+4.44	+40.6	Speng Inc ADR (XPEV)	48.29	-2.85	+12.7	
Lincoln Natl Corp (LNC)	66.31	+2.70	+31.8	Yamana Gold Inc (AUY)	3.89	+.04	-31.9	
Emocar Had out (ENO)	00.51	. 2., 0	. 51.0	Talliana dola ilic (AUT)	3.03		31.3	

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PINION

Hypocrisy shows in 'Build Back Better' bill



Jonah Goldberg

For the first five years, the single most expensive item in the House version of the Democrats' "Build Back Better," or "human" infrastructure, bill is a gigantic tax cut for millionaires and billionaires. This provision would lift the cap from \$10,000 to \$80,000 on income tax deductions for state and local taxes (commonly referred to among budget nerds as SALT).

Given how inconvenient this is for a party that for years has been campaigning against millionaires and billionaires, some Democrats prefer the claim that it's merely the second-most-costly provision. They do this by merging the child care and pre-K programs into a single item.

But no matter how you slice it, giving a huge tax cut to the super-rich is a weird thing to do when you've been claiming that the solution to our problems is simply getting the rich to "pay their fair share." It's even weirder when you consider that this tax break would be even bigger and

more regressive than former President Trump's tax "giveaway" that was so reviled by progressives — which the House version would keep. Benefits from the Democrats' regressive giveaway would largely go to taxpayers in the top 20% of the income scale and would overwhelmingly benefit the top 0.1% of earners, specifically in high-tax states like New York, New Jersey, Illinois and California.

Obviously, this is all justly ripe for accusations of hypocrisy. But what explains the hypocrisy? I can see three mutually reinforcing reasons.

First, and most obvious, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi needed every vote she could get to pass this thing in the House, since no Republican would vote for it, and Democrats from high-tax states insisted on restoring the SALT deduction greatly reduced by Republicans under Trump.

Second, for all their soak-the-rich rhetoric, Democrats rely on wealthy donors too. In 2020, 24 of the top 50 individual donors gave to Democrats. Liberal billionaires are a thing too. As in 2008, Wall Street money went disproportionately to Biden and other Democrats in 2020.

The rule of thumb is that culture-war issues help Republicans with voters and help Democrats with donors. But sometimes, wealthy liberals want their financial interests protected too.

But I think the biggest reason for the SALT giveaway has less to do with Democrats carrying water for the 1% and more to do with protecting what Walter Russell Mead has dubbed the "blue social model" of politics. The Democratic Party is heavily – and increasingly – dependent on college-educated, urban (often white) voters clustered in big cities and wealthy

These high-tax states and localities need rich people to pay for everything from generous benefits to public-sector unions, unfunded pensions and bloated bureaucracies. The SALT deduction reduces the incentives for the wealthy to vote with their feet. But it doesn't eliminate them, which is why so many people are fleeing high-tax states like California and New York for low-tax ones like Florida and Texas. Of course, they're not all tax fugitives; some are leaving because of issues like affordability and business regulation, which are also problems for blue-model jurisdictions.

On another level, the SALT deduction also helps mask and subsidize bad state and local taxation and spending decisions. Much of Build Back Better is made

to appeal to the blue-model coalition. A massive tax credit for electric vehicles can be rationalized in the context of climate change, but it also serves blue-state voters, who own the lion's share of EVs. Likewise, the child care provisions in the bill could disqualify many religious institutions from receiving federal subsidies because of federal nondiscrimination statutes despite the fact that 53% of families that rely on such services do so through religiously affiliated institutions. This reflects another example of favoring Democratic interest groups.

At this point, it's unclear if the SALT provision in the House version will survive in the Senate. Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont — unlike his progressive counterparts in the House – remains opposed, because he rightly sees it as a gift to the millionaires and billionaires he excoriates. He's working with Sen. Bob Menendez, D-N.J., on a less regressive version of the SALT provision.

But tinkering can't hide the fact that the Democrats' agenda is as much about investing in their own party's infrastructure as it is about investing in the country's.

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There's a science to excusing Fauci

By Ramesh Ponnuru **Bloomberg Opinion**

Anthony Fauci, President Joe Biden's chief medical adviser and the longtime head of the National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases, keeps saying that his critics are "really criticizing science because I represent science." Maybe he even believes it. But it might be time for science to find another spokesman.

It's not necessary to bear Fauci any ill will — to think he has anything other than the best interests of Americans at heart, let alone to credit Lara Logan's demented suggestion that he can be likened to Josef Mengele — to wonder whether his public statements are doing more harm than good at this point.

He arguably served a valuable function at the outset of the pandemic by explaining the situation, and offering reassurance, to those many Americans who had no confidence in former President Donald Trump. Fauci can't do the same thing for those who have no confidence in Biden, though, since they tend not to put much stock in what the doctor has to say either.

It's hard to imagine that any of the vaccine-hesitant are waiting for one more Sunday-show appearance by Fauci before they will (as they almost all should) get shots. And there are plenty of other doctors and scientists who can and do speak with knowledge and insight about new developments in the pandemic.

Fauci has also dealt some blows to his own credibility. His journalistic defenders concede only that he is not "perfect," but the truth is more disturbing than that. The lead exhibit in the anti-Faucists' case is his flip-flop on masks: He discouraged their use early in 2020 but then became an evangelist for them. The change wasn't the result of any new scientific finding about



Anthony Fauci, right, joined by President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, discusses the omicron variant on Monday. ABACA PRESS

the efficacy of masks. He has subsequently emphasized that he wanted to ensure that health care workers didn't run out of masks. But what he said was that they were ineffective. At best, his explanation suggests that he was misleading the public for what he thought was its own good.

It's not the only time he has tailored his remarks about COVID-19 to elicit a desired reaction from the public, or said so. He issued steadily increasing estimates of the vaccination rate needed to achieve herd immunity, and said that he did so partly to encourage more vaccination and partly because polls indicated the public was growing more confident in the vaccines. Whether or not it's justified — or at least excusable — this kind of manipulation is self-undermining. The closer the intended

subjects of the manipulation pay attention, the less it will work.

Obviously it's not science, considered either as a method or a body of knowledge, that has compelled Fauci to say what he has said about masks and herd immunity, and his decisions should not be immune from criticism because he "represents science." While arguing with politicians, he

is being demagogic himself. But the attitude he has expressed is merely an exaggerated form of one that pervades the public health world and has great influence beyond it. How many times has "following the science" been presented as an adequate answer to the challenges of COVID-19? Science has produced nearly miraculous vaccines, but it can't tell us to take them, since it can't compel us to care

about our own or other people's health. It certainly can't tell us how to proceed in the presence of doubt. It can't settle how to judge trade-offs, whether they involve eating steak (the Centers for Disease Control's guidelines forbid medium-rare) or setting policies related to COVID-19.

What we need from the public health bureaucracy right now is not hectoring about our behavior or lectures about the value of science. It's action; especially making rapid antigen tests cheap and widely available. That's the kind of mission that requires great contributions from experts. Very little of it has to be done on television.

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Chris Cuomo has a funny idea about how to do his job

By Gail Collins The New York Times

Welcome to Cuomo-free America.

Well, at least temporarily.

We've been working up to this for a while. Andrew Cuomo was, of course, compelled to resign the governorship of New York in August, approximately one second ahead of likely impeachment for what we can perhaps describe as verbal harassment and pathological grabbiness.

Now Chris Cuomo has been suspended by CNN, where he is a top-rated news host. There's no question that he was trying to help with his brother's defense even as he was assuring his viewers and bosses that it was more or less hands off.

(In a happier time, when everything wasn't so depressing, we might have noted that "hands off" would also have been a policy that could have saved Andrew

Cuomo's career.) Our job today is to decide how bad Chris Cuomo's Andrew-related activities have been. It's very easy to sympathize with his desire to protect his older brother. Their bond was evident in a series of joint, jibing TV appearances they did, some while Chris was recovering from COVID-19 early last year, quarantined away from his family.

Rule 1 is never hit a brother when he's down, and you're literally in the basement," the governor pointed out.

The banter went on and on. Including one unfortunate episode in which Chris called Andrew the "love guv." (At a later date, CNN shared "the very moment" Chris finally emerged from his belowground exile — which was problematic only in that he'd reportedly been out for

days.) As a journalist, Chris had a terrible conflict of interest when Andrew fell into headline-making disgrace. The obvious answer was to keep clear, steeling himself against a very natural desire to protect a brother and a very Cuomo-like impulse to take control of the situation.

Now we know how he really responded. "On it," he said, when his brother's most powerful staff member, Melissa DeRosa, asked him to find out from his "sources" whether Politico was working on a new damaging Andrew story

In a more perfect world, this sort of temptation wouldn't have come up because Andrew would have fiercely ordered his younger brother to stay away from the whole mess. Directed the staff to leave Chris alone and maybe organized a family intervention. It does say something that our former governor didn't try to

protect him. Almost everything in this saga goes back to family. You have to wonder if the brothers' impulse to take action — even action that objective minds would instantly

discern as a really bad idea — is a response to the defects of Dad, who was once nick-

named "Hamlet on the Hudson." Mario Cuomo, in a moment that must be seared into the minds of his offspring, was expected to fly to New Hampshire and file, at the very last minute, for the presidential primary in 1991. But he left two chartered planes waiting at the Albany airport, claiming that he needed to go back to work with the Republicans on a state budget.

Not surprising that his sons are action-oriented. Not necessarily always to their advantage.

Chris Cuomo told state investigators lately state investigators seem to be omnipresent in family life — that he was obsessed with thinking of ways to protect Andrew, and the question of how he should protect himself "just never occurred to me." Hmm.

One of the things Chris was worried about was an article he had heard Ronan Farrow was preparing for The New Yorker. His paranoia certainly made sense. If you had ever once for a single second worried that a prominent member of your family was pathologically grabby with female employees, Ronan Farrow is one of the last people in the world you want around asking questions.

What did Chris do? Well, according to his own testimony to state officials, he went poking around - sort of like an inves-

tigative reporter - trying to find out what Farrow was up to. It was precisely what he'd promised not to do.

"Please let me help with the prep," he told DeRosa around the time when the team was getting ready for the gubernatorial defense. Many, many text messages and email chains followed.

Then he took on Anna Ruch, who had accused Andrew of trying to kiss and fondle her at a wedding reception in 2019. "I have a lead on the wedding girl," he reported to DeRosa.

The story, as Chris told it, was that a friend called to express concern that said wedding girl had been "put up to it." This is very possibly true — the part about the call, that is. If somebody claimed your brother had made inappropriate moves at a public event, a pal or two might let you know they were on his side. Even if they secretly ... wondered.

One big problem with Chris' reporting is that it's at best pretty useless. And at worst — which is also in reality — pretty

Where do you draw the line between journalism and family? Maybe at the point where you, the prominent news anchor, start thinking that your job is running down rumors for your brother.

Collins is a columnist for The New York



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ART DEALERS & COLLECTORS;
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The painting is 11" x 15", and is on thick yellum.

The painting is 11" x 15", and is on thick vellum. In 1803, and many years afterwards, the Shogun ruled all of EDO. (In 1867 EDO became Tokyo.) The other man is the Shoguns tax creditor. Both men are painted on large panels made of rice paper and silk. As such, being so old, the paper is very fragile and must be relined! All 3 paintings will only be shown once in Windham CT, in December, between weekday hours of 11AM-1PM. Starting at \$38,000. Call 860-423-9622 about any changes. You can leave a call-back number; please speak slowly. Thank You.

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TAG SALES

Tag Sales & Flea Markets

ENFIELD - Yankee Polecat Club antique insulator & collectibles sale, Sunday 12/5, 8am-1pm, 566 Enfield Street

ROCKY HILL - Sat December 4th 9am-1pm Rockyhill United Methodist Church, 623 Old Main St, will hold their Christmas Bizarre. Featuring: baked goods, candy, homemade crafts, soups to go, pecan sticky buns & a giant holiday tag sale. Come one and all!

ROCKY HILL - JUST IN TIME FOR THE ROCKY HILL - JUST IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS - FABULOUS WINTER TAG SALE! Everything 30-50% off retail prices! No reasonable offer refused. Baseball cards, old stamps, antiques, collectibles, new items, marbles, Star Trek Items and 400 comics! Please wear a mask. Sat 12/4 8am-1pm Follow signs. 22A Colonial Dr., 06067. For info: 860-995-0007 Jesse

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Hartford

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: The following self-storage Cube contents containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by CubeSmart 391 N. Frontage Rd. New London, CT 06320 to satisfy a lien on December 16, 2021 at approx. 2:30 pm at www.storagetreasures.com.

Cube 2111 - Katherine Stokes, Cube 2138 - Stephany Codner, Cube 3094 - Aaron Smith, Cube 3100 - Ann-Marie Lemini 12/2/21 & 12/3/21 7096690

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: The following self-storage unit contents containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by CubeSmart, 868 Flanders Road, Mystic, CT 06355 to satisfy a lien on December 16th, 2021 at approx. 1:30 PM at www.storaget-reasures.com:

Cube #407: David McCoy. 12/3/21 &12/4/21 7094549

Connecticut

NOTICE

U-Haul Moving and Storage Company of Naugatuck, will sell household and personal items, contained in the following storage rooms due to unpaid storage fees on Monday, December 6th, 2021.

Seth Brown 1442
Debra Varrone 1293
Demos Grivas 1126
Kim Rosa 0107
Kim Rosa 0115
brian knowles 1376
Marcia Horne 1019
Denisha Davis 1248
Kenneth Belanger 0117
micheal lawrence 1207
tanya valentin 1142
richard beverley 1349
Jamie Fiddler 1401-03
Sean Harrigan 1372 Sean Harrigan 1372

Diane Joyner 1044 MONTEL GRAY 1197 Deborah Bousquet 1303 Lori Thayer 1106 Porscha Mack 1390 Contents to be sold on the premises of 799 New Haven Road, Naugatuck, CT 06770 on Monday, December 6th, 2021 on Storageauctions.com and close out at 9:00AM.

9:00AM.

Purchases to be paid for at the time of purchase, a \$100.00 deposit will be needed on EACH room purchased. U-HAUL reserves the right to bid or purchase any lot or space Auction service provided by www.storageauctions.com

Absolutely NO U-Haul Storage customers, or their family or friends on their behalf, whose units are listed in auction, may participate in any auction proceedings. You MUST contact Marketing Company Storage

Manager, Joy Pace, for an appointment to pur chase any units won in auction. All persons will be turned away without an appointment. Contact Joy Pace with any questions or concerns at Joy_Pace@uhaul.com 12/2, 12/3/2021 7096678

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

The following self-storage Cube contents containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by CubeSmart 201 Lake Ave Bristol CT 06010 to satisfy a lien on November 18th, 2021 at approx. 1:00pm at the following site [www.storagetreasures.com] Cube #14 Linda Garrity; Cube #151 Marcos Rodriguez; Cube #204 Linda Garrity; Cube #229 Jason Sthilaire; Cube #320 William Bonito; Cube #502 Brandon Buckberrough Buckberrough 12/1, 12/3/2021 7093791

Connecticut

U-Haul Moving and Storage Company of Pinnacle Rock, will sell household and personal items. contained in the following storage rooms due to unpaid storage fees on Monday, Decembe 6th, 2021.

Dwayne Phillips 1103 Kristin westervelt 0722 JESSICA WILLIAMS 5053 Adrianna Newburry 4114 Jeffrey tomcak 0641 david oyola 0689 Brittany Hilmeyer 0832 DOLORES THORNTON 4065 Kimberly Marcinczyk 1147 jaqueline irizarry 0667 Lakyia Thomas 1168 Chrislove Joseph 0620 Jeff Stjean 0834 Jeff Stjean 0834 chassity gonzales 4108 Kimberly Marcinczyk 1241-43 Luis Torres 0632 Jacob Dallas 5071 Shaquille Antuna 5124 Christian Coleman 0683 Denise Chapman 5033

Contents to be sold on the premises of 10B New Britain Ave, Plainville, CT 06062 on Monday, December 6th, 2021 on Storageauctions.com and close out at 9:00AM. Purchases to be paid for at the time of purchase, a \$100.00 deposit will be needed on EACH room purchased. U+HAUL reserves the right to bid or purchase any lot or space. Auction service provided by www.storageauctions.com Absolutely No U-Haul Storage customers, or their family or friends on their behalf, whose units are listed in auction, may participate in any auction proceedings. You MUST contact Marketing Company Storage Manager, Joy Pace, for an appointment to purchase any units won in auction. All persons will be turned away without an appointment. Contact Joy Pace with any questions or concerns at Joy_Pace@uhaul.com 12/3/21, 12/4/21 7097160

12/3/21, 12/4/21 7097160

Notice Avon Self Storage, LLC

NOTICE is hereby given by Avon Self Storage, LLC that it will satisfy it's lien under Section 42-160 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, against personal property located at Avon Self Storage, LLC at 190 Old Farms Rd, in Avon, CT by public auction as

follows: Unit 313 Marilyn Ten Cate Personal belongings and furniture Unit 9028 Joseph Papa Personal Belongings

and Furniture The auction shall take place on December 7, 2021 at 1:30pm at Avon Self Storage, 190 Old Farms Rd, Avon, Connecticut. to satisfy the lien. The auction may be cancelled if the property is redeemed as provided by statue or for any other reason in the sole discretion of Avon Self Storage, LLC

Avon Self Storage, LLC 12/3, 12/6/2021 7097442

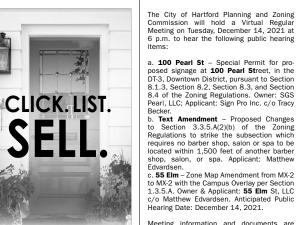
a. CONTINUED to 12/7 - 158 Homestead Ave – Appeal of a zoning enforcement of-ficer's cease and desist order dated August 12, 2021 for code case number 10587896. Owner & Applicant: Pauline & Devon Wilson. b. POSTPONED to 12/7 - 243 Sisson Ave – Appeal of a Zoning Enforcement Cease and Desist Order dated August 31, 2021 for code case number 10673309. Owner: Ishshah Chadash Remnant Ministries; Applicant: c. **DENIED - 2582 Main St** – Appeal of a

The City of Hartford Zoning Board of Appeals

held a Virtual Regular Meeting on Tuesday, August 3, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. and voted as

Permit for a firearms store James; Applicant: Garfield Butt.

Meeting minutes and documents are available online: https://www.meetinginfo.org/meetings/1098. 12/3/21 7097784



Meeting information and documents are available online: https://www.meetinginfo.org/meetings/1088. Documents are available for inspection by appointment at 260 Constitution Plaza, Hartford, CT 06103. 12/3/21, 12/10/21 7097811

LEGAL NOTICE GLASTONBURY TOWN COUNCIL ZONE CHANGE & SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN - PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Relationary Town Council (Zoning Authority), on Tuesday, December 7, 2021, at 8:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Town Hall, 2155 Main Street, Glastonbury, will OPEN & IMMEDIATELY CONTINUE UNTIL TUESDAY, ANNIANY 41, 2022 JANUARY 11, 2022 a Public Hearing to consider the following:

Application of JS Advisors, LLC for a Change of Zone from Residence A Zone to Adaptive Redevelopment Zone (ARZ)) and Approval of a Site Development Plan for Warehouse 38, a proposed residential conversion project involving 31 condominiums w/in the former Consolidated Cigar warehouse – 38 Hubbard Street – Residential A Zone to ARZ & Flood Zone

A copy of the proposed Site Development Plan is available for inspection in the Offices of the Town Clerk & Community Development, Town Hall, 2155 Main St, Glastonbury, CT.

Dated at Glastonbury, CT this 24th day of November, 2021. GLASTONBURY TOWN COUNCIL (Zoning Authority) By: Thomas P. Gullotta, Chairm

11/26/2021, 12/3/2021 7094501

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF SIMSBURY ZONING COMMISSION – REGULAR MEETING

The Zoning Commission of the Town of Simsbury will hold a Public Hearing at a Regular Meeting to be held on Monday, December 6, 2021, for the Simsbury Town Offices, 933 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, Connecticut via Zoom Meeting ID: 257 429

 Application #21-26 of the Simsbury Zoning Commission, Applicant; Town of Simsbury, Agent; Special Exception pursuant to section 6.3 for development in the floodplain related sory improvements, and associated drainage improvements for the property located at 22 Iron Horse Blvd (Assessor's Map H09, Block 226 Lot 003A). Zone FP New plans pr

At this hearing, interested persons may appear via Zoom and be heard on the issues or written communications may be emailed to jhollis@simsbury-ct.gov by 12:00 p.m. on December 6, 2021 to have their coments read into the record at the hearing. A copy of the above is on file in the Office of the Simsbury Planning Department, 933 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury Connecticut, for public inspection.

Liquor Notices

This is to give notice that I, RICH R SINCLAIR, 51 BASSWOOD ST NEWINGTON, CT 06111-3802. Have filed an application placarded 11/26/2021 with the Department of Consumer Protection for a RESTAURANT LIQUOR PERMIT for the sale of alcoholic liquor on the premises at 140 of alcoholic liquor on the premises at **140**PARK RD WEST HARTFORD CT **06119 1753.** The business will be owned by LTC
PARTNERS LtC. Entertainment will consist
of: Disc Jockeys, Live Bands Objections must
be filed by: 01-07-2022.

RICH R SINCLAIR 11/26, 12/03/21 7090851



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PLAINVILLE

Leslie Ann Griffin SOUTH WINDSOR Rita Della Rocco SOUTHINGTON Anastasia Drozd WEST HARTFORD

Patricia Williams WETHERSFIELD Gail Obedzinski WETHERSFIELD Jean Galinsky

WINDSOR
Wendy Ann (Brassill) Wallner
Rita Della Rocco
OTHER TOWN IN CT
Kenneth S. Bakulski
* Denotes name listing only.
Please note: not all death notices are in alphabetical order.

OBITUARIES

Drozd, Anastasia

Anastasia Drozd, of Osterville, died November 7, 2021 Anna was born September 9, 1914 in Beacon New York, to John and Stasia Wojnilowicz. At age 9 she and her family left the

United States for Poland. Then at age 21 she returned to the US and a few years later, met and married Frank P. Drozd of Southington, Connecticut.

She lived in Southington for 67 years until the death of her husband.

For the next 14 years she lived in Osterville, MA with her daughter Irene and Son-in-Law

Edward Conrad. She enjoyed knitting over 100 prayer shawls when she belonged to the Prayer

Shawl Ministry of Our Lady of Victory Church in Centerville. She loved to crochet as well as reading. In Southington, she belonged to the Immaculate Women's Club and Rosary Society at the Immaculate Conception

She leaves her daughter and Son-in-Law, her beloved grandchildren, Therese (Chuck), Jeff (Kelli), Kristina (Rob)and her special great grandchildren, Dean, Drew, Adam, Aidan, Camden, and Trisha. She loved to see her family as they were so loved by her. She also leaves many nieces, nephews, cousins, and many good friends.

The family would like to thank the kindness and the caring staff of the Pavilion, Beacon Hospice aides from Bayada and the VNA. Also, the Osterville EMTS and the very kind people who asked about her.

A funeral mass will be celebrated in Southington, CT on December 4, 2021, at 10 AM at the Immaculate Conception Church. Donations to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital may be made in her memory or your favorite charity. Be like Anna be kind and thankful every day.

For online guestbook visit www.

chapmanfuneral.com

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Galinsky, Jean C. (Cermola)



Jean Catherine (Cermola) Galinsky, age 92, wife of the late Saul Sam Galinsky, passed peacefully surrounded by her loving family on Dec. 1, 2021. Born in St. Francis Hospital on February 5, 1929, she was the daughter of the late Carmine and Latizia (Adamo) Cermola and Letizia (Adamo) Cermola of Hartford, Connecticut.

One of ten children, Jean

Hartford, and attended St. Augustine Grammar School and Bulkeley High School. She married Saul in 1955, lovingly and courageously bringing together her Catholic faith with his Jewish heritage. Jean especially cherished watching her grandchildren grow into fine young men and women and always looked forward to precious family time at the Galinsky cottage at Point O Woods Beach and all the memorable family gatherings during the holidays. family gatherings during the holidays.

She was a loving mother, and leaves behind her five sons and their spouses and friends, Jim and Anne Galinsky of Madison, Andrew and Cheryl Galinsky of Glastonbury, George and Nicholina Galinsky of Stonington, Robert Galinsky of NYC, Philip Galinsky of NYC, and Allison Phillips of NYC. She leaves behind eight grandchildren and their spouses and frends: Lauren and John Riscall Phillips and State of California (1988). Driscoll, Phillip and Catherine Galinsky, Leah and Ryan Hansen, and Alicia Galinsky, Jenna Galinsky, Andrew Galinsky, Trager Galinsky, Gregory Galinsky, and their close friends. She also leaves her sister Ann Schmidt of Milwaukee, Wisconsin and many very special nieces, nephews, cousins and family friends.

Upon graduating from Bulkeley High School she joined the Travelers Insurance Co., Inc. She later went on to work for Kaiser Permanente for several years where she shone brightly working closely and kindly with the

doctors, nurses, patients and staff.
Jean was affiliated with several major charitable events for non-profit organizations, among them the Wethersfield Historical Society, the American Heart Association (AHA), Wethersfield Village Garden Club and Corpus Christi Parish School. She was co-chair of the 12th Annual AHA French Fashion Show held at G. Fox & Co., and of the first ever Corpus Christi Scholarship Ball. She and her late husband Saul were also vital members of Wethersfield's Democratic Party for many years. Jean was always generous with her time volunteering, and was frequently the assistant moderator at the polls.

She had a flair for fashion, art and interior decorating. She will be remembered for her style, beauty and great sense of humor. Jean was very hardworking, but always liked to have fun along the way. She was also kind, open minded and generous.

Jean was pre-deceased by her sisters Mary Smallbeck of Aneta, ND, Rose Lynch of Glastonbury, CT, Terry Blackstone of East Hartford, CT, and brothers Luke Cermola of Ft. Lauderdale, FL, Joseph Cermola of Southington, CT, Dominic Cermola of Hartford, CT, and

Ernest Cermola of West Hartford. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations are encouraged to the Town of Wethersfield Police Department, the Town of Wethersfield Mental Health Services Division, or Hartford Healthcare Hospice at Home.

Funeral services will take place at Christ the King Parish (Corpus Christi Church), 601 Silas Deane Hwy., Wethersfield on Saturday, December 4, at 11:00 a.m. Immediate family will gather together for a private burial, to honor Jean's wishes. To sign the online registry book or to leave a message of condolence, please visit www.desopofuneralchapel.com.

D'Esopo



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OBITUARIES

Della Rocco, Rita Pepin



Rita (Pepin) Della Rocco of South Windsor and formerly of Windsor, beloved wife of the late Richard Della Rocco, passed away Wednesday, December 1, 2021. Born in Hartford daughter of the late Albert and Annette Pepin, she was raised in Windsor where she graduated from the former John Fitch High School in 1950. She was employed

Combustion Engineering/ABB for 24 years before retiring. She was a longtime member of St. Damien of Molokai Parish, St. Gabriel Church. Family was the center of Rita's life. She is survived by her son Keith and his wife Jeanine Della Rocco of Windsor; two daughters Denise Della Rocco of Holiday, FL; and Nancy Cavanaugh and her husband James of Durham; grandchildren Nicole Della Rocco of Washington, DC, Drew Cavanaugh of New Orleans, LA, Sean Cavanaugh of West Hartford, and Michael Cavanaugh and his wife Danielle of San Francisco, CA; a great granddaughter Arden Cavanaugh; Barb Flynn who was like a daughter, of Holiday, FL; a brother Joseph Pepin of Windsor Locks a sister Theresa Dakin of Vernon; and many nieces and nephews. Beside her husband Richard she was predeceased by a brother Raymond Pepin and a sister Rita Bogli. She loved all the activities at the Residence at South Windsor Farms, especially Bingo. Rita's family would like to thank the amazing staff at the Residence at South Windsor Farms who became her extended family. Her family will receive friends Monday, December 6, 2021, from 9:00 to 10:30 AM at the Carmon Windsor Funeral Home, 807 Bloomfield Avenue, Windsor followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 11 AM at St. Damien of Molokai Parish, St. Gabriel Church, 379 Broad Street, Windsor. Burial will follow in Windsor Veterans Memorial Cemetery. Contributions may be made to a charity of the donor's choice. For directions or condolences please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.



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Klotz, Ann (Kozaczka)

Ann (Kozaczka) Klotz Passed away on November 30,2021 She was predeceased by her loving husband of 65 years, George. They met at a dance at the Polish National home in Hartford Ct. and never

stopped dancing. She is survived by many nieces and nephews. A mass of Christian burial will take place at St Mary's Church on Main St, East Hartford, on Monday December 6th at 10:00 AM. Burial to follow at St Mary's cemetery Burnside Ave, East Hartford, Ct.

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Marquis, Hermance M.



"Hermie" Hermance Marquis, 88, of Enfield entered into eternal rest on Wednesday, Wednesday, December 1, 2021. She was the beloved wife of 48 years to the late Ronald Marquis. Born on April 25, 1933 in Grand Isle, Maine a loving daughter of the late Lewis and Marie (Michaud) Gorneau. She had resided in Enfield since 1959. A loving

and devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother Hermie dedicated her life to caring for her loving family and home. She along with her husband owned and operated Marquis Garage in the Scitico section of Enfield for many years. She was a member of St. Martha's Church, in her leisure time she enjoyed bowling, she had a love for racing and was a huge supporter of her son, Jerry's racing career, and cherished time spent with family especially the grandchildren and

great-grandchildren. She is survived by her four children; Jerry Marquis & wife Karen of Broad Brook, Nancy Dighello & husband Lewis of Enfield, Judy Kozikowski & Eugene of Berlin, and David Marquis & wife Laurie of Florida, her nine beloved grandchildren; Shawn, Kristen, Ashley, Chelsea, Jason, Jennifer, Justin, Mark and Sheena and 21 adored great-grandchildren. She was also survived by her sib-lings; Alice Morin of ME, Edgar Gorneau, of Westbrook, Jeannine Corriveau of Plainville, Gerard Gorneau of FL, Gisele Chamberland of ME, along with many nieces and nephews. Besides her parents and husband, she was predeceased by a grandson Chris, and siblings; Donald, Norman, Jr., and Herbert Gorneau, Nancy Manz, Patsy Pelletier, and Tony Beaupre.

Relative and friends may gather with the family on Sunday, Dec. 5, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. at Browne Memorial Chapels in Enfield. Funeral Services will take place on Monday Dec. 6, 2021 with a Prayer Service at 10:30 am at the funeral home, followed by interment in the Hazardville Cemetery. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to the CT Humane Society, 701 Russell Rd. Newington, CT 06111. To leave an online condolence message visit: www.brownememorialcha-

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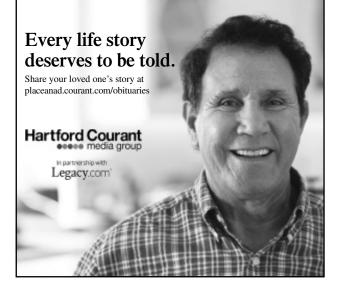
Williams , Patricia Mae



Patricia Mae Williams, 73 of West Hartford, Ct passed away on January 13, 2021 and at that time we were not able to gather "in person" to celebrate her life. Join us on December 8th, 2021 at 6pm for "A Birthday Gone Home Celebration" to be held at The First Cathedral, 1151 Blue Hills Avenue, Bloomfield, CT 06002. Patricia Williams

believed in people and community and the value and strength therein; regardless of status or stature. Come join us in celebration. In lieu of flowers please consider contributing to the Patricia Williams Scholarship Fund. Checks should be made out to Upper Albany Neighborhood Collaborative (UANC), 1229 Albany Avenue, Hartford, CT 06112.

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Obedzinski, Gail Helen



Gail Helen (Lewis) Obedzinski, wife of David L. Obedzinski of Wethersfield, passed away on December 2 at the age of 80 from pancreatic cancer. Born in Hartford, CT to the late John Lewis and Barbara (Sugermeyer) Lewis, she graduated from Bulkeley High School, where she made lifelong friends. A many graduate of the St. Agnes

School of Nursing, she spent several years caring for newborns in the St. Francis Hospital nursery while raising her five children. She later worked at Aétna and the National Marrow Donor Program before retiring. Gail was a devoted mother and grandmother, known for her sewing and decorating skills, her wonderful laugh, and her ability to bring the whole family together. Her warm hospitality was appreciated by neighbors in each place she lived: Forster Heights (Hartford), Glastonbury, and Wethersfield. Over the years she volunteered in the thrift store for the House of Bread and served as a Eucharistic minister at the Church of the Incarnation in Wethersfield.

She is survived by her husband, David, and their children: David J. Obedzinski and his wife, Linda Obedzinski, of Glastonbury; Paul Obedzinski and his partner, Tamar Kummel, of New York, NY; Jason Obedzinski and his wife, Aimi Prescott, of Arlington, MA: Byon Obedzinski and his wife. Obedzinski and his wife, Aimi Prescott, of Arlington, MA; Ryan Obedzinski and his wife, Carrie Obedzinski, of Glastonbury; and Jill Foley and her husband, Rider Foley, of Charlottesville, Virginia. She will be lovingly remembered by grandchildren Kate Obedzinski, Jack Prescott, Kyle Obedzinski, Monica Obedzinski, Claire Obedzinski, Ronan Obedzinski, and Miles Prescott. She was preceded in death by her sister, Pat Lewis, and is survived by her sister BJ Lewis of Warrenton, Virginia. The family will receive visitors at the Farley-Sullivan The family will receive visitors at the Farley-Sullivan Funeral Home in Wethersfield on Tuesday, December 7, from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. at the Church of the Incarnation in Wethersfield, followed by burial at Cedar Hill Cemetery in Hartford. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Connecticut Humane Society or The House of Bread in Hartford.

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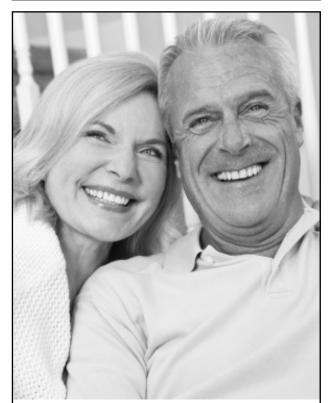
Seaton, Dorothy May (Keeney)



Dorothy May (Keeney) Seaton, 97, a lifelong resident of Manchester passed away November 29, 2021 at November 29, 2021 at Touchpoints after a brief ill-She was born in ness. Manchester, August 2, 1924, daughter of the late Jesse and Harriet (Olin) Keeney. Prior to her retirement, she was employed by Meadows Convalescent Home

Manchester as a secretary and bookkeeper for 17 years. Among her hobbies were cross stitch, reading, playing cards, building jigsaw puzzles, bowling, and gardening. She is predeceased by her husband of 49 years, Kenneth B. Seaton and infant son, Glenn. Dorothy is also predeceased by three brothers, Lester, Albert and Erlis and two sisters, Thelma, and Aceynath. She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Carol and Dennis DesSureault of Manchester; her granddaughter and grandson, Amy (DesSureault) Wilcox and CDR Jeffrey Wilcox, USN currently stationed in Yokosuka, Japan; her loving great-grandsons, Ryan and Andrew Wilcox; a sister, June Hany of South Windsor and several nieces and nephews. Funeral services will be Saturday December 4, 2021 11 a.m., at Holmes-Watkins Funeral Home 400 Main St., Manchester. Burial will be in West Cemetery, Manchester. Friends and family may call Saturday at 10 a.m. at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to American Heart Association 5 Brookside Dr. Walliford, CT 06492, Beacon Hospice Care 111 Founders Plaza Ste 1802 East Hartford, CT 06108, or a charity of the donor's choice. To leave a memory or message of condolence, please visit www.holmeswatkins.com

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The Hartford delays return to office

Concerns cited over omicron variant of COVID-19; over 6,000 employees still expected back in January

By Alex Putterman

Hartford Courant

Citing concern over the omicron variant of COVID-19, The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc. said Thursday it would delay plans to have senior leaders return to the insurance company's downtown office.

The Hartford, which employs more than 6,000 people in Connecticut, is the first of the major Hartford-area employers to act in response to the omicron variant. The delay deals a blow to local leaders and businesses, who were hopeful the return of employees to Hartford would beget the capital city's long-awaited revitalization.

"Out of an abundance of caution, we are

delaying the return of senior leaders to the office as scientists and medical experts work to understand the new virus variant, Omicron, and its implications for transmissibility and vaccine effectiveness," Matthew Sturdevant, a spokesperson for The Hartford, said in a statement.

A "few hundred" senior leaders of The Hartford had been scheduled to return to the office next Monday, ahead of other employees. Sturdevant said there is no scheduled new date for them to return but that all employees are still expected to do so Jan. 18, as previously planned.

'As we have said all along, we will continue to make decisions and take action based on guidance from public health experts," Sturdevant said.

COVID-related shutdowns have decimated foot traffic in downtown Hartford, leading to fewer patrons for local restaurants and retail shops.

The omicron variant has not yet been identified in Connecticut, but The Hartford's announcement Thursday upends the optimism leaders had for the city to receive a breath of life before the year's end.

Property-casualty insurer Travelers Cos. Inc. indicated Thursday that plans for its 7,000 Hartford employees will remain the same while the company monitors the latest guidance from federal and state officials.

"We continue to target Jan. 18 for our broader return, when our employees will have the option of a hybrid work arrangement," a Travelers spokesperson told The Courant.

Travelers previously eyed a mid-September to mid-October date for a broad return to its downtown offices, but shelved those plans due to concerns over the delta variant. The company's offices are open to employees who want to come in on a voluntary

CVS Health Corp., which owns Hartford-based insurer Aetna, said previously most corporate office workers could begin to return in a hybrid model beginning Jan. 10.

Outside of Hartford, Pratt & Whitney has

Turn to Hartford, Page 2

As towns across the country consider reshaping their centers, upscale apartments proposed along gateway to West Hartford Center



A rendering shows an upscale apartment building proposed for Farmington Avenue near the center and Blue Back Square in West Hartford. JASKO DEVELOPMENT/ZELMAN REAL ESTATE

TOWN CENTER RE-IMAGINED

By Kenneth R. Gosselin | Hartford Courant

WEST HARTFORD – wo forlorn office buildings on Farmington Avenue near Blue Back Square in West Hart-ford would be demolished and replaced by 48 upscale apartments in a proposal that could add new vibrancy to what is considered a gateway to the town's center.

If approved, the project, estimated to cost \$13 million to \$15 million, would provide further evidence that suburban towns in the Hartford area are looking to boost housing in their town centers to make them more walkable – a trend, experts say, that is unfolding across the country.

In West Hartford, developer Avner Krohn, of New Britain-based Jasko Development, a major force in apartment construction in central Connecticut, has partnered with Brian Zelman, a principal in Zelman Real Estate, and Richard Korris, of Jaz-1 Investments on the redevelopment of 920 and 924 Farmington Ave.

It is the first development project in West Hartford for each of the partners, though Zelman and Korris are based in town.

The two office buildings, dating back to the late 1950s and early 1960s would be replaced by a 4-story, brick-andglass structure, with one- and two-bedroom apartments including balconies and upscale finishes, all above 10,000 square feet of commercial space.

The partners say they were attracted to location because it is rare that a property becomes available so close to the town center. They also see plenty of demand, with overall rental vacancy in the town at about 3%, according to town statistics, and even tighter in the

Turn to Center, Page 2

Pratt builds new version of its next-gen jet engine

Looking beyond COVID-19, Airbus is ramping up production

By Stephen Singer Hartford Courant

EAST HARTFORD - Jet engine manufacturer Pratt & Whitney said Thursday it is launching a new version of its next-generation geared turbofan engine for Airbus, its largest commercial customer, as the French plane maker looks beyond COVID-19 and ramps up production.

The GTF Advantage builds on the geared turbofan engine that's been in service for five years and pushes up fuel savings by 1%, to a 17% reduction in fuel consumption and CO2 emissions compared with earlier generation engines, the company told reporters at a media gathering at its East Hartford site.

Airlines are under pressure to reduce carbon emissions. Since its launch in 2016, GTF engines have saved more than 600 million gallons of fuel while cutting carbon emissions by more than 6 million metric tons, Pratt & Whitney said.

"This will just continue to multiply and the GTF Advantage is the next step for us," said Tom Pelland, senior vice president of GTF Programs.

The engine, which will be available in January 2024, will be compatible with 100% sustainable aviation fuel when it begins service. The industry has set a 2050 timeline to achieve net zero emissions.

Global aviation generates about 2% of all human-induced carbon dioxide emissions, according to the Air Transport Action Group, an industry association. Aviation is responsible for 12% of CO2 emissions from all transport sources, compared with 74% from cars and trucks, the group said.

Airbus told suppliers in May it's looking to produce 45 of its popular A320 narrowbody aircraft a month at the end of this year and called for a rate of 64 by mid-2023. It's



Visitors look at a geared turbofan engine built by Pratt & Whitney on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., in July 2017. KEVIN WOLF/AP

asking suppliers for 70 a month by early

"Longer term, Airbus is investigating opportunities for rates as high as 75 by 2025," the Toulouse, France, manufacturer

"The aviation sector is beginning to recover from the COVID-19 crisis," Chief

Turn to Engine, Page 2

Public hearing sought on relief aid

GOP lawmakers, community activists call for transparency

By Daniela Altimari

Hartford Courant

Republican lawmakers and community activists are demanding greater transparency about how federal COVID-19 funds were spent in Connecticut.

"Our government must be accountable to its people," Senate Republican leader Kevin Kelly said during a press conference outside the state Capitol on Thursday. "We believe people have the right to know how their money is being spent and must have guarantees that their tax dollars are making it to where it is intended to go."

Kelly and his fellow Republicans in the state Senate are seeking a public hearing on federal COVID-19 funds, including money appropriated through the CARES Act, which was approved by Congress last year to help local governments deal with the economic fallout of the pandemic.

The FBI has been investigating the alleged misuse of the funds in West Haven and arrested two former city employees, including former Democratic state Rep. Michael

Kelly was joined by a group of community activists who echoed his call for greater

"We have a common interest in ensuring that every Connecticut community, including Black and brown communities, receive their fair share of COVID-19 money," said Cynthia Jennings, a civil rights attorney and former Working Families Party member of

Turn to Relief, Page 2

Nearly \$2M returned after trips canceled due to COVID

AG warns travelers to read fine print as omicron spreads

By Zach Murdock Hartford Courant

The Connecticut attorney general's office has helped return \$1.9 million owed to would-be travelers whose cruises, special trips and vacations were canceled over the past year because of COVID-19 restrictions and travel bans.

Cross-country and international travel increased late this year on the back of vaccines and booster shots, but Attorney General William Tong warned residents again Thursday to pay close attention to the fine print on their travel arrangements should the pandemic throw a wrench into their plans – especially with the emergence of the new omicron variant spreading across the globe and prompting new travel restrictions.

Knowing what cancellation and rescheduling options you are entitled to can save you thousands of dollars, but in the event travelers still cannot get their money back under those rules, Tong's team and the state offices of consumer protection and insurance also can help, he said Thursday.

"With the arrival of effective vaccines and boosters, many families are making travel plans, and that's a great thing,

Turn to Travel, Page 2

Police: 1 killed in Hartford shooting

By Christine Dempsey Hartford Courant

A 22-year-old was fatally shot in

Hartford late Wednesday, police said. It is the 34th homicide of the year in the capital city. Police received a ShotSpotter

alert of a shooting in the area of 27 Enfield St. about 11:20 p.m., but when officers arrived, they did not find any evidence of gunfire, they said. About a half-hour later, a resident called police saying a gunshot victim had been found behind 158 Magnolia St., a block away, in the Upper Albany neighborhood.

Officers and medics responded and tried to save the man, but he died at the hospital, police said.

Police later identified the man as Devonte Downer of Laurel Street in the city.

Downer was located directly across the street from the home where 16-year-old Ja'Mari Pres-

ton was gunned down April 10, two hours later and less than a mile away from where 3-year-old Randell Jones was shot inside his mother's car outside a North End store. The two shootings sparked hours of chaos across the neighborhood that day and officers found about 75 shell casings, including rifle rounds, scattered at the scene of Preston's death from various weapons.

Police have arrested two young men in connection with the toddler's death but to date have made no arrests in connection with the teen's killing. Officials did not indicate Downer's death was connected in any way to the previous shootings other than the proximity of where Downer and Preston were found, months apart.

He is the 33rd homicide victim in the capital city this year, not including the man who was fatally shot by members of a federal task force Jan. 6. City police only count the homicides they investigate.

Hartford has now passed its recent highs of 32 murders in 2015 and 33 in 2009. It is expected to record one of its deadliest years in decades, with the possible exception of the late 1980s and early 1990s, when gang wars raged in the city, and 2003, when a nursing home fire killed 16 in one night.

Other cities in the state and across the nation have seen a similar increase in murders, and some have suggested a lack of services during the coronavirus pandemic played a role.

Investigators continue to investigate the homicide. Anyone with information is asked to call the Hartford police tip line at 860-722-8477

Staff writer Zach Murdock contributed to this report. Christine Dempsey may be reached at cdempsey@courant.com.

Engine

from Page 1

Executive Officer Guillaume Faury said in May. "The message to our supplier community provides visibility to the entire industrial ecosystem to secure the necessary capabilities and be ready when market conditions call for it."

United Technologies Corp., the previous parent company of Pratt & Whitney, invested \$10 billion over 20 years to design and build the geared turbofan engine that was first installed on airline fleets in 2016. Christopher Calio, president of Pratt & Whitney, said the company is not disclosing how much has been spent to develop GTF Advantage.

Technologies United rebranded itself last year as Raytheon Technologies Corp., a Massachusetts-based aviation and defense manufacturer.

Pratt & Whitney competes with CFM International, co-owned by France's Safran SA and General Electric Co., which leads in market share on the A320 program. Pratt & Whitney expects the GTF Advantage to

help boost the manufacturer's backlog and maintain or improve its delivery share, Chief Customer Officer Rick Deurloo said.

Pratt & Whitney does not anticipate commercial aviation returning to 2019 levels until 2023 or 2024. With widespread vaccinations and use of masks, that outlook has not changed despite the delta variant and the most recent omicron threat, Calio

"Regardless of the news on this variant and its virulence I do think we are in a much better place as an industry and society to manage our way through it,'

Long-term, the global airline fleet is projected to grow annually by 4.5%, said Geoff Hunt, Pratt & Whitney's chief engineer.

"The technology that we invest in today [is] going to be pivotal to how that fleet is performing come the middle of the next decade," he said. "And of course that fleet will still be in service for 20 years beyond that so this is really important that we continue this progression of technology."

Stephen Singer can be reached at ssinger@courant.com.

HARTFORD

Police probing shooting that left 14-year-old injured

A 14-year-old boy was shot and later hospitalized in Hartford Thursday afternoon, police

Police said they responded to a shots-fired report just before 2:30 p.m. and found evidence of a shooting near 135 Russ Street.

While responding officers investigated on scene, the 14-year-old victim arrived at a nearby hospital with a gunshot wound.

The teen's injuries are believed to be non-life-threatening, police said.

Further information was not

The incident is under investigation. Anyone with more information is asked to contact the Hartford police tip line at 860-722-8477 (TIPS).

- Seamus McAvoy

Hartford

Relief

from Page 1

the Hartford City Council. "Fairness and equity are nonpartisan issues."

Following the West Haven arrests, the state Office of Policy and Management announced it was conducting an independent audit of every municipality in the state to determine how the CARES Act funds were spent.

Asked Thursday about the demands of Kelly and the community activists, Gov. Ned Lamont said he is open to additional oversight.

"The state auditors [are taking] a look at our numbers as well, keeping a close eye on them," Lamont said at a separate press briefing in New Britain. "And maybe another set of eyes to look at that would be

Kelly and the activists sent a letter Thursday to the Democratic leaders of the General Assembly, Senate President Pro Tem Martin Looney and House Speaker Matt Ritter, seeking a bipartisan hearing and demanding to know how they will safeguard against fraud and misuse



State Sen. Kevin Kelly

of the funds.

"The alleged misconduct in West Haven has shone a light," Kelly said. "So what happened? I think the people have the right to know. I think the trust in government has been shattered."

Reggie Hales, an activist and independent newspaper publisher from Hartford, said he does not view the matter as political.

"COVID-19 does not have a party," Hales said. "It was a disease that was here to kill [and] it is not over yet. We all know that many were hurt and some still are."

not made changes to its remote

work model either, a company spokesperson told The Courant. Up to 80% of the jet engine manufacturer's 8,250 Connecticut employees will continue to work remotely either full- or part-time, with the rest working full time in

East Hartford.

New Britain-based Stanley Black & Decker will continue its hybrid model. Only about one-third of its employees will work in-person full time, with another third splitting between in-person and remote.

Connecticut has seen a sharp increase in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations in recent weeks, as the state's positivity rate has reached its highest level in nearly

The omicron variant, believed to be more transmissible than other COVID-19 strains, has spread quickly in other parts of the world and was identified Wednesday in California.

Courant staff Seamus McAvoy contributed to this report. Alex Putterman can be reached at aputterman@courant.com.

Travel from Page 1

Tong said in a statement. "But this is still a very unpredictable pandemic, and the uncertainty around new variants has triggered additional travel restrictions. There's no cause for panic, but if you are making travel plans, be sure to read the terms and conditions and protect yourself if you need to postpone or cancel any plans."

More than 1,000 travel-related complaints have been filed with the attorney general's office since the start of the pandemic and the consumer assistance team has helped recover \$1.9 million for those would-be travelers so far, officials said.

For example, the team secured a \$4,000 refund for an older woman who had planned a trip to Holland and Belgium for April 2020 that was canceled in those chaotic first few weeks of the national and international lockdowns shortly after the discovery that the virus had spread across the world, according to Tong's office. The woman had purchased travel insurance and been promised a refund within 60 days, but after 15 months of trying unsuccessfully to get her money back, the consumer assistance team finally secured her refund this summer.

Two other sisters had planned

a trip to Mexico around the same time in April 2020 that was canceled when their resort closed at the start of the pandemic. They were offered a voucher and airline credit to use before the end of this year, but due to their employers' travel restriction rules they could not meet that deadline, and the consumer assistance team helped secure an extension for the sisters' travel vouchers and airline credits.

In one case, a man who had scheduled back-to-back cruises for May 2021 learned both were canceled just a few weeks earlier. He reached out to the consumer assistance team after he could not get his money back and ultimately received a full \$34,000 refund with the team's help, Tong

The number of travel cancellations likely will only grow in the coming months now that the new omicron variant is being detected across the globe, including in the United States, sparking a new series of international travel bans and concerns about the variant's spread within the U.S.

Earlier this week, Connecticut's COVID-19 daily positivity rate reached 6% — its highest point in nearly a year — as the number of patients hospitalized have climbed to almost 400, their highest since late summer.

Zach Murdock can be reached at zmurdock@courant.com.



Avner Krohn is developing major residential projects in Bloomfield, East Hartford and New Britain — and already has completed a series of building rehabs in the Hardware City.

Center

from Page 1

"West Hartford Center is strong from so many perspectives, and this is a really critical location as sort of gateway to the Center of Trout Brook Drive of Farmington Avenue," Zelman said. "It's really an opportunity to create some-thing that will be a landmark

The development focuses on the apartments, rather than also trying to fit in a lot of amenities, with the exception of an outdoor patio on the west side of the new structure, Krohn said.

The amenity is West Hartford Center," Krohn said. "It's amenity-laden. All the fitness centers, restaurants, bars, a lot of people's offices are just a walk away. There are so many options, with few rental options.

A Whole Foods Market is just across the street.

The partners declined to estimate rents, but they said they would be comparable to newer apartment projects near the center, including the one at 24 North Main St. A check of that website shows a one-bedroom going for \$2,500 a month and a

two-bedroom at \$3,200. The apartments would have 20 parking spaces under the building, more on a surface lot behind and electric vehicle charging stations. Experts said both cities and

suburbs across the country are taking a closer look at how to make their communities more walkable to lessen dependence on the use of cars.

"You see a price premium for those types of places," Rachel MacCleery, senior vice president at the Urban Land Institute in Washington, D.C., said. "Those places are more rare than they should be so the market is responding by trying to create infill, density - both commercial and residential density - where it makes sense."

In West Hartford, the construction of Blue Back Square in the mid-2000s was controversial at the start, but ultimately found acceptance for its New Urbanism approach and attractiveness of its rentals and condominiums. It later spawned the construction of an adjacent hotel and the opening of a Whole Foods Market.

"It's difficult for any individual infill project to create a walkable place, so I think those efforts can be most successful when they are part of a broader re-imagining strategy so you get all the pieces working together," MacCreery

The proposal comes while another key property near the Center is also for sale. The Kingswood-Oxford School has put



Hartford Center. MARK MIRKO PHOTOS/HARTFORD COURANT

"West Hartford Center is strong from so many perspectives, and this is a really critical location as sort of gateway to the Center of Trout Brook Drive of Farmington Avenue. It's really an opportunity to create something that will be a landmark building."

- Brian Zelman, of Zelman Real Estate

up for sale the 3.5-acre property now occupied by The Children's Museum. The museum is searching for a new location.

Krohn said the partners have had preliminary discussions with the town about their plans and have gotten good initial feedback. The partners intend to submit a formal proposal Friday and are not seeking tax breaks because rent levels are strong enough to cover operating the building and clearing a profit for the developers.

If approved by the town council and other planning boards, construction could start next spring with the demolition of the two office buildings. The apartments could be ready in 16 months, Krohn said.

The project was conceived as a market-rate rent project, the development partners said, but two "affordable" units are planned. The partners said the decision was made because West Hartford is moving toward encouraging more affordable units in town.

Krohn, 40, has emerged as a major development name in the region. He's also partnering with Zelman on building 360 apartments in East Hartford and 111 in Bloomfield.

Krohn also is embarking on the six-story, 107-rental project in downtown New Britain called The Brit.

Decisions about how towns around cities such as Hartford deal with mixed-use developments for dwellers with diverse incomes will likely play a significant role in the future, some experts say. Creating the walkable suburb with more apartments is seen as key to attracting young people and keeping empty nesters, they sav.

Glastonbury is now debating the effects of a major, mixed-use in the center of town. Others have built or are looking to build around rail stations and busways to promote the use of mass-tran-

"When you talk about suburbs like West Hartford and Glastonbury, those are big towns in a very small state," Mary Donegan, a professor of urban and community studies at UConn and a West Hartford resident, said. "What those towns decide to do really has an impact on the vibrancy of the region and the state."

Kenneth R. Gosselin can be reached at kgosselin@courant.com.

Feds indict 4 in string of armed robberies

Allegedly stole hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of electronics from area AT&T stores

By Edmund H. Mahony Hartford Courant

A federal grand jury has indicted four Hartford men for their alleged roles in stealing hundreds of thousands of dollars of cellphones and other electronics during violent, armed robberies of Greater Hartford AT&T

stores. Alex Jones, 21; Ronaldo Smith, 23; Shaquille Raymond, 23; and Deshawn Baugh, 19, all of Hartford, were captured after what

authorities said was their last robbery, when their getaway car smashed into a Massachusetts state police cruiser as they tried to elude a high-speed police pursuit. All four are accused of federal robbery and firearms charges connected to four robberies and two attempted robberies.

Court filings in the case say the men were working with a female accomplice who is a former AT&T employee and who provided them with inside information about store layouts, employee panic

buttons and access to inventory rooms that hold hundreds of thousands of dollars of state-of-the-art iPhones.

The accomplice, Saviana Bourne, 23, of Middletown, was the driver of the crashed getaway car. She pleaded guilty earlier this week to a variety of robbery and conspiracy charges

Her mother, described in the court filings as a "correctional counselor in New York," is described in an FBI affidavit as cleaning out Bourne's apartment and scrubbing it with bleach before police and FBI agents were able to search it.

The four men, with Bourne

acting as driver, are accused of forcing their way into AT&T stores in Newington, Enfield, Canton and West Springfield, Mass., between January and June. They are accused of pistol-whipping and beating employees and customers. After forcing employees to open electronic locks to inventory rooms, they made off with more than \$300,000 in iPhones for which authorities said Bourne had a buver

FBI agents said the robberies were planned in advance. Stores were chosen and surveilled a day or two before being robbed. The thieves wore dark clothing, masks and hats and carried handguns

and a rifle. The robberies were planned for about 7:30 p.m. on Saturdays and the thieves tried to gain entrance through employee doors at the rear of the stores.

The men and Bourne are accused of trying to rob stores in Glastonbury and Torrington. But AT&T managers had been alerted to previous robberies and had instructed employees to lock store doors early. Robbers nearly gained access to the Glastonbury store in late May after an employee unlocked a door, but ultimately were fought off.

Edmund H. Mahony can be reached at emahony@courant.com.

Coventry reopens following standoff

Shelter-in-place lifted after unarmed man surrenders peacefully

By Christine Dempsey Hartford Courant

A main road was shut down for seven hours and residents were told to stay put as heavily armed officers swarmed historic Main Street in Coventry on Thursday morning because of a man they suspected was holed up in an apartment with a gun.

The man emerged peacefully — and unarmed — shortly after 10:30 a.m. and taken to the hospital for a mental health evaluation, police said. The shelter-in-place order was lifted.

"The individual was found to be unarmed and in emotional distress," Acting Chief Jeffrey Spadjinske said.

It all started about 3:30 a.m., when the man, whom police did not identify, called 911. Kevin Roberto, executive assistant to the police chief, described the caller Thursday morning as "Somebody in need.

The man was on a cellphone and police said they at first didn't know where he was.

Town Manager John Elsesser said he received a text at 6 a.m. alerting him that police were calling in a tactical team. The regional SWAT team, Capitol Region Emergency Services, or CREST, responded.

We have closed Main Street, between Lake Street and School Street, for a distressed person who has barricaded themselves." he said. The intersection with Lake Street also includes Stonehouse Road, or Route 275.

Police were trying "to keep things a little lower key, and to allow an intervention," Elsesser said. "Those things can go south

Some school buses were delayed because Main Street, or Route 31, is a main thoroughfare in town.

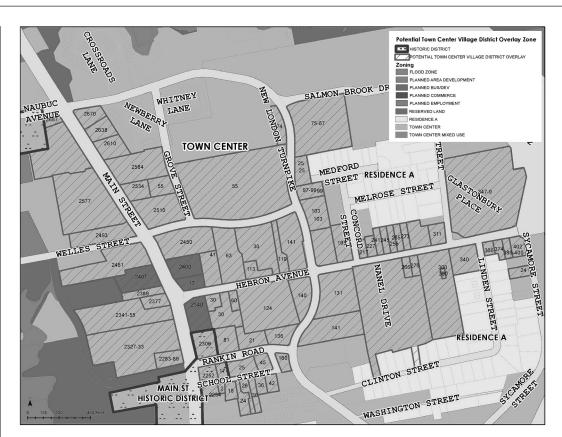
David Petrone, superintendent of schools, said the district rerouted buses to avoid that stretch of Main Street. As a result, some buses were 5-10 minutes late. There are no schools near the

"At no time was there a concern for students' safety," Petrone said.

The same Coventry Village neighborhood was the scene of a 2008 standoff that took a more tragic turn. On April 14 of that year, a man fatally shot his pregnant girlfriend and threatened to kill himself as he held a gun - and his toddler —in the parking lot of the Bidwell Tavern, 1260 Main St., police said. The same SWAT team that responded Thursday, CREST, took the man into custody and the 2-year-old to safety.

The man was charged with murder. He took his own life while in pre-trial detention at Garner Correctional Center, correction officials said.

Christine Dempsey can be reached at cdempsey@courant.com.



Glastonbury mulls zone to preserve historic buildings

'The beautiful quaint center of town we all love could be gone forever'

By Don Stacom Hartford Courant

Glastonbury officials could decide as early as next week whether to create a special district in the town center to preserve historic buildings.

The goal of the proposed "village center" zone is to restrain the spread of modern commercial construction styles that some residents view as detracting from the area's historic appearance.

Dozens of residents attended the first public hearing on the proposal just before Thanksgiving, and the town council will resume it Dec. 7. The council could vote as early as that evening or postpone a decision until later in the winter.

The proposed Village District zone would include sections of Main Street, Welles Street, Grove Street, Hebron Avenue. Rankin Road, School Street and the New London Turnpike. Links to the proposal are on the town website at glastonburyct.

The proposal came from a bipartisan initiative of the council, whose members have been hearing concerns from homeowners and local businesses in recent months.

"This area has several architecturally significant properties," Democratic council member Mary LaChance said in a statement before the election. "Creating a village district will allow the town to preserve our history while incorporating new buildings in a cohesive design and with on eye on traf-

Minority Leader Kurt Cavanaugh, a Republican, and Chairman Thomas Gullotta, a Democrat, proposed the special district.

If the council approves it, the basic zoning in the area would remain, but properties within the new district would be subject to additional restrictions.

Several development proposals "threaten to forever change the New England character of Glastonbury," Gullotta said in a statement. "A Village District gives the planning and zoning commission the tools to ensure that neo-minimalism/brutalism do not become the dominant architectural designs that residents will live with for the decades to come."

Cavanaugh wants the new zoning regulations to control demolition of prominent historical buildings and strengthen the design standards for new construction.

"Past developments like the Main Street CVS and Walgreens, Somerset Square and the Oak Street Stop & Shop demonstrate that you can have new development that blends with our history, but we must demand it," Cavanaugh said in a statement.

The zoning language would give planners latitude to evaluate whether new projects are compatible with the landscape, architecture and general design of neighboring properties. Everything from roof treatments, signs, lighting, doorways and building materials to exterior wall colors would be open

"The removal or disruption of historic traditional or significant structures or architectural elements shall be minimized." according to the text of the proposed zone.

"If we are not careful, the beautiful quaint center of town we all love could be gone forever," Republican John Cavanna said in a campaign statement before his election in November.

"I worry we already may be walking on the path to overcrowding and impossible parking in the center of town now. We need to approach things slowly, thoroughly and with an eye toward the future residents.

"The creation of a village district places a tool in the toolbox to help us maintain the Glastonbury center for generations."

Don Stacom can be reached at dstacom.com.

Warming centers open in Hartford

As temperature drops, overnight shelters help to house those in need

By Seamus McAvoy Hartford Courant

HARTFORD - The Salvation Army has opened Hartford's overnight warming center for the season in the former Adult Education building at 110 Washington St.

The center will be open between 6 p.m. and 7 a.m. and can accommodate 50 people. The Salvation Army also has opened its family shelter this year in the old school building at 104 Vine St., where the warming center had been located in previous years.

The city also opened up its emergency warming centers in the days leading up to Thanksgiving as temperatures dipped below

freezing. Hartford recorded a low of 25 degrees Tuesday evening, and low temperatures in the mid-to-high 20s are expected toward the end of the week.

"The weather's getting colder, and it's important that every Hartford resident has access to warm shelter during the night," Mayor Luke Bronin said in a statement. "These warming centers can be lifesaving for residents experiencing homelessness, and we encourage anyone in need of warmth to go to our center at 110 Washington Street."

The Connecticut Harm Reduction Alliance, previously called Greater Hartford Harm Reduction Coalition, is stocking Hartford's warming center with drug overdose kits, drug screening tests and other supplies that help keep people safe if they're taking part in risky behaviors.

The statewide Coordinated Access Network (CAN), which coordinates services for people experiencing homelessness, can also connect people to COVID-19 tests and vaccinations.

In Greater Hartford, the network has tested about 167 people per month this year, with a positivity rate of 3.6%.

Connecticut's COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations have increased rapidly in recent weeks, reaching their highest levels in months. The spike has particularly affected unvaccinated residents, who have been about five times as likely to test positive as vaccinated residents, according to state data.

Statewide, there were 2,594 people experiencing homelessness in Connecticut during this year's point-in-time count, which seeks to measure how many people are living outside and in shelters during a single night in January. That was a 10.7% decline from the previous year's data, according to the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness.

Families in need of shelter can call 211 to be connected with The Salvation Army for assistance.

Seamus McAvoy can be reached at smcavoy@courant.com

Redistricting commission seeks more time to redraw congressional lines

The bipartisan commission charged with redrawing the boundaries for Connecticut's congressional districts has decided to request a three-week extension so it can complete its

While the panel already approved redistricting plans for the state Senate and House of Representatives, it couldn't finish the congressional districts in time to meet the Nov. 30

"This situation is a little bit unique in that we haven't had the time to put the effort in to sort of negotiate in good faith the congressional maps," said House Minority Leader Vincent Candelora, R-North Branford, referring to U.S. Census data being delayed because of the pandemic.

Both Republicans and Democrats said they're optimistic they'll reach an agreement on a bipartisan congressional plan by Dec. 21.

Secretary of the State Denise Merrill on Wednesday officially notified the chief justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court that the Reapportionment Commission failed to meet its deadline, giving the court control over the process

Attorney General William Tong, on the panel's behalf, will file a request for an extension with the court in the next few days, a spokesperson said.

Associated Press

Hartford man faces prison for role in 'extensive' Northeast larceny ring

By Seamus McAvoy Hartford Courant

A Hartford man was sentenced in federal court Wednesday for his alleged involvement in a theft network that prosecutors say committed more than 50 "grab and go" thefts at department and retail stores across New England and New York.

Andres Barclett, 27, faces 15

months of imprisonment followed by two years of supervised release. He also must pay nearly \$20,000 in court-ordered restitution fees.

According to federal prosecutors, Barclett participated in an "extensive commercial larceny spree" between 2019 and 2020 in which a group of individuals would enter a store, grab clothes and merchandise and leave without paying with the help of a getaway vehicle.

Barclett was involved in at least 13 of 50 total thefts committed by the group, prosecutors said, resulting in over \$50,000 in losses. Barclett was identified as a suspect through a multi-agency investigation dubbed "Operation American Steal."

The group allegedly stole from Polo Ralph Lauren, T.J. Maxx, Balenciaga, Burberry, Macy's, Marshalls, Dick's Sporting Goods, Tommy Hilfiger, Sephora and other stores.

According to prosecutors, the group would steal from stores in Connecticut and surrounding states before taking the merchandise back within the state to be

sold online or on the street. Barclett was indicted with other Hartford County residents by a federal grand jury in Septem-

He was arrested on unrelated charges in May 2020, and pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to transport and possess stolen property in August. Interstate transport of stolen goods carries a maximum prison sentence of 10

Seamus McAvoy can be reached at smcavoy@courant.com







PUBLIC NOTICES

ESTATE OF Donald Stanford Hill (21-0735)

The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Saybrook Probate Court, by decree dated November 30, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address pelow. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Rosemary L. Nolin, Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is:

Donna Lynn Hill, 630 E 14th St., Apt. 20, New York, NY 10009-3375

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Peter Francis Mazze

The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Saybrook Probate Court, by decree dated November 30, 2021, ordered that all claims must be resented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Rosemary L. Nolin, Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is:

Edward I Mazzen c/o ADRIAN L JOHNSON, ADRIAN L. JOHNSON, 34 LONG HILL RD., PO. BOX 378, CLINTON, CT 06413

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF PETER J. SWOL. JR., late of AKA Peter Joseph Swol, Portland, Al (21-00341)

The Hon, Jennifer L. Berkenstock, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Region # 14 Probate Court, by decree dated November 30, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to prompt present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Monika L. Graham, Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is: James Swol, 9 Bellevue Ter., Cromwell, CT 06416



NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Savbrook Probate Court, by decree dated November 30, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address Failure to promptly present an such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Rosemary L. Nolin, Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is:

Neil A. Quatrano c/o ALEXANDER TIGHE, TIGHE LAW OFFICE, LLC, 12 OLD BOSTON POST RD., OLD SAYBROOK, CT 06475 12/3/2021 7097109

Extra Space Storage will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those in-dividuals listed below at the location indicated:

50 Olesen Rd Wethersfield CT 06109 860-266-3184

Auction Date- Dec 8, 2021 1:00 PM 8192 Patrick Jackson House goods 8134 Ibraimo zainadine House goods 4225 Domonique Chapman

goods
The auction will be listed and adver tised on www.storagetreasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property. 11/26/2021, 12/3/2021 7094183

TOWN OF CROMWELL PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE

The Town of Cromwell Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday December 7, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 224 of the Cromwell Town Hall at 41 West Street on the following item:

1. Application #21-35: Request for a Special Permit under Section 6.1.H.2 of the Zoning Regulations to permit a Crushing Operation at 80R Geer Street. Paramount Construction LLC is the Applicant and Paramount Properties LLC is the Owner.

2. Application #21-33: Request for a Special Permit under Section 6.6 of the Zoning Regulations to create a Rear Lot at 20 Woodside Road. Reed Builders is the Applicant and Constance J. Scheu is the Owner.

At this hearing interested persons may appear and be heard and written testimony received. This application is available for public inspection in the office of the Town Planner.

Alice Kelly
Chairman

Dated in Cromwell, Connecticut this the 18th day November of 2021. 7088510

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

The following self-storage unit contents containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by CubeSmart, 1501 Route 12 , Gales Ferry, CT 06335 to satisfy a lien on December 16th, 2021 at approx. 1:30 PM at www.storagetrea

Cube #803: Jeremy Batty;

12/01, 12/03/21 7094385

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Kathleen C. Stavola, Late of Old Saybrook AKA Katie C. Stavola (21-0722)

The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Saybrook Probate Court, by decree dated November 23, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below 15-21 the statements. pelow. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Rosemary L. Nolin, Assistant Clerk

Michael Chapin c/o EDWARD MCDERMOTT CASSELLA, CLOUTIER & CASSELLA, LLC, 29 ELM STREET, OLD SAYBROOK, CT 06475

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

MIDDLETOWN PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION DECEMBER 8, 2021

PUBLIC COMMENT MAY BE LIMITED TO FIVE MINUTES. PUBLIC IS ENCOURAGED TO SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS PRIOR TO THE PUBLIC HEARING.

1. Request for a special exception with site plan review for the construction of site pian review for the construction of two residential buildings totaling 8 one-bedroom units for the elderly/disabled at Marino Manor located at 1361 Randolph Road in the R-15 zone. Applicant/agent William A. Vasiliou, Housing Authority SE2021-10

2. Request for a special exception for a new liquor retail store establishment to occupy a vacant tenant space in an exist-ing building located at 613 Washington Street in the B-2 Zone. Applicant/agent Mitalben Patel SE2021-11

3. Request for a special exception for a new farm winery located at 519 Miner Street in the R-30 Zone/ Applicant Agent, seph Defrancesco, Fallsbrook Farm, LLC SE2021-12

4. Request for a subdivision to create 18 lots, open space, and a road currently known as Military Road. Applicant/agent The Middletown Housing Partnership Trust, Inc./David E. Rosenberg, Esq. S2021-4

Thomas Pattavina, Chair Planning and Zoning Commission 11/26, 12/03/21 7091054

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THE BALTIMORE SUN

The Virginian-Pilot

Orlando Sentinel

SunSentinel

WWW.COURANT.COM/FEATURES

In film full of big stars, Hunter steals the show

Her interpretation of 'Macbeth' Witches hypnotic, unnerving

By Josh Rottenberg Los Angeles Times

A few months before shooting began on director Joel Coen's new adaptation of Shakespeare's "Tragedy of Macbeth," he and the film's producer and star Frances McDormand met in a London hotel room with British theater veteran Kathryn Hunter, who was to portray the play's supernaturally prophetic Three

There was no bubbling cauldron or eye of newt or toe of frog involved. But McDormand says there was some kind of enchantment at work.

We said, 'Let's just talk about how you envision this physically," says McDormand, who plays Lady Macbeth in the film and is married to Coen. "Kathryn got up on the coffee table, took black pantyhose out of her backpack and pulled them over her head, and she started bending into the shapes that she does in the film. That's the kind of thing that someone who loves to play does — and that's the kind of magic Kathryn brought to the whole process."

Slated to hit theaters Dec. 25 before arriving on Apple TV+ on Jan. 14, "The Tragedy of Macbeth" features a starry cast from both sides of the Atlantic, anchored by Denzel Washington as the ambitious Lord Macbeth and McDormand as his scheming wife. But for viewers who may be unfamiliar with the 64-vear-old Hunter's long and storied stage career, her performance as the witches — who foretell Macbeth's bloody rise and fall in a series of literature's



Kathryn Hunter portrays the supernaturally prophetic Three Witches in Joel Coen's "The Tragedy of Macbeth." APPLETV+

most famous riddles — may well prove the film's biggest revelation.

Twisting her body into seemingly impossible shapes and speaking in a low, guttural rasp (the product of years of cigarette smoking), Hunter delivers an unnerving and hypnotic – and genuinely weird — interpretation of the Weird Sisters that upends any prior notions you may have of what a witch looks and sounds like.

For Hunter, who trained at England's Royal Academy of Dramatic Art and established herself as a virtuoso physical

performer through her work with the Londonbased theater company Complicite, the key to unlocking the Witches came from an early conversation with Coen in which he linked the characters to crows.

"Crows, particularly in Shakespeare's time, would have lived on battlefields, scavenging," says the actor. "So rather than go down some cliched route of a witch as a nasty person with a big nose, I thought of outcasts, like the untouchables in India, living on a battlefield, watching these crows and somehow becoming one with them,

the way people do when they've been raised by wolves."

Hunter's birdlike shape-shifting as the witches in "Macbeth" is so uncanny, some viewers may even wonder whether her performance was augmented with special effects. "So many people think Joel enhanced her work with CGI after the fact," says McDormand. "But all of that is her."

Throughout her stage career, the Olivier Award-winning Hunter who is an artistic associate at the Royal Shakespeare Company, where she has directed and starred in a

number of the Bard's plays — has displayed a remarkable ability to embody characters of any gender and age. In "Macbeth," she also plays a secondary role as an old man, just the latest in a series of cross-gender performances she has given over the years, including King Lear and Richard III. Hunter has even transformed onstage into another species, earning acclaim for playing a chimpanzee-turned-varietyperformer in the 2009 solo show "Kafka's Monkey."

Born Aikaterini Hadjipateras to Greek parents in New York and raised in England, Hunter adopted her highly physical approach to acting partly in response to an accident that nearly derailed her career while she was studying at RADA.

"I had always loved movement, and the training we did in ballet and jazz and fencing and tumbling I loved all that," Hunter says. "Then I had a very bad car accident and was in a wheelchair for a long time. I think everybody was saying, 'Is she going to end up doing radio plays?' My legs didn't work very well, but funnily enough, somewhere in the restriction, I realized that the upper body has such expressive possibility."

Having spent her career almost entirely on the stage, Hunter hasn't done as many films as she would have liked; she may be best known to American moviegoers for playing the small role of Arabella Figg in 2007's "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix."

"I kept saying to my agent about 10 years ago, 'Please. I want to do more film,' and he said, 'Well, you're never available, you're doing theater," says Hunter, who is set to play a supporting role opposite

Emma Stone in director Yorgos Lanthimos' next movie, "Poor Things." "Film is a verv different animal, but I love it because of the focus. Inevitably, in the theater, you're projecting out. On film, what's astonishing about the camera is it can see those deeper human layers in a way that's not immediately accessible."

In Coen's stylized take on "Macbeth," which drew raves after its world premiere in September at the New York Film Festival, Hunter hopes audiences will find a fresh portal into a 500-year-old work that many never encounter outside a high school English classroom.

"When you meet people who are passionate about Shakespeare, they go, 'Well, he's the greatest writer ever, blah, blah, blah,'" Hunter says. "However, we need to acknowledge that the language can be alienating for people, and young people read Shakespeare like a duty. You have to make a bridge, and for Joel to bring 'Macbeth' to the screen with Fran and Denzel and all these wonderful film actors is an extraordinary bridge."

Whatever her other hopes for the film, McDormand would like to see "Macbeth" serve as a bridge for audiences to seek out Hunter's work on the stage or wherever they can find it.

"You don't discover somebody like Kathryn,' McDormand says. "Kathryn's been working all her life. You just get lucky enough to see her in different forms. I feel really gratified that we were able to record some of her work in a way that people are going to be able to access it. But I also want it to be an invitation to see her live."

CELEBRITIES

Santana undergoes heart procedure

From news services

Carlos Santana has successfully undergone a heart procedure and is canceling several Las Vegas shows.

In a video message released Wednesday, Santana said he asked his wife to take him to the hospital on Saturday because of an issue with his chest.

"I'm going to be taking time off for a little bit to make sure that I replenish and rest," Santana said.

Michael Vrionis, president of Universal Tone Management, said the guitarist, 74, underwent an "unscheduled heart procedure," but gave no specifics.

The 10-time Grammy winner's heart procedure and recovery prompted the cancellation of his concerts at the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino through the end of the year.

"Carlos is doing fantastic and is anxious to be back on stage soon," Vrionis said in a statement. "He profoundly regrets that this 'speed bump' necessitated the cancellation" of his performances.

Court backs duchess: \boldsymbol{A} British court on Thursday dismissed an appeal by a newspaper publisher seeking to overturn an earlier ruling that it breached the privacy of the Duchess of Sussex by publishing portions of a letter she wrote to her estranged

The Court of Appeal in London upheld a High Court ruling in February that publication of the letter that the former Meghan Markle wrote to her father, Thomas Markle, after she married Prince Harry in 2018 was 'manifestly excessive and hence unlawful."

The publisher of the Mail on Sunday and the MailOnline website challenged that decision at the



Carlos Santana is canceling concerts after an unscheduled heart procedure. ANGELA WEISS/GETTY-AFP 2017

Court of Appeal, which held a hearing last month.

In a statement, Meghan said the ruling was "a victory not just for me, but for anyone who has ever felt scared to stand up for what's right."

Actor Mekka dies: Longtime "Laverne & Shirley" actor Eddie Mekka, 69, was reportedly found dead Saturday at his California home. Mekka had battled blood clots recently, his brother told TMZ. Mekka portrayed Carmine Ragusa, who dated Shirley, on 150 episodes of the popular sitcom that was a spinoff of "Happy Days."

Mekka acted in dozens of TV shows and films over the course of a career that spanned four decades.

"A sad goodbye to Eddie Mekka this morning," Michael McKean, who played Lenny Kosnowski on "Laverne & Shirley," tweeted Thursday.

Echard named new 'Bachelor': Clayton Echard, the former NFL player and

current "Bachelorette" contestant, will be the next object of affection on ABC's dating show "The Bachelor." Echard made it to Michelle Young's top eight suitors before getting eliminated on this season of "The Bachelorette."

On "Good Morning America" Wednesday, he revealed that his run as the Bachelor was a success.

"I did find love," he said. "I was a little skeptical going into the whole journey, but I'm so pleasantly surprised that things worked out much different than I thought."

Echard's season of "The Bachelor" kicks off Jan 3.

Dec. 3 birthdays: Singer Jaye P. Morgan is 90. Actor Nicolas Coster is 88. Singer Ozzy Osbourne is 73. Actor Julianne Moore is 61. Actor Brendan Fraser is 53. Singer Montell Jordan is 53. Actor Holly Marie Combs is 48. Actor Tiffany Haddish is 42. Actor Anna Chlumsky is 41. Actor Dascha Polanco is 39. Actor Amanda Seyfried is 36.



ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson

askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

His Twitter profile leaves spouse stumped

Dear Amy: I've been married for 23 years to a really mellow guy who had always been very private.

We haven't had a good physical relationship in a decade because of his medical issues. I assumed he had just lost interest. and I almost gave up.

We seemed to be rounding the corner to a more loving relationship, but there was something nagging at me.

I noticed he was on his phone a lot. Last year, he created an account on Twitter. I decided to go on Twitter, and I found that he was sharing his life story with 75 random people. His bio sounds like a dating site. He never

mentions being married. Then I noticed two females that he had one-on-one dialogues with. One seemed to ignore him, but with the other, they are in contact 8 to 12 times a day. He sent her a meme of cartoon rabbits "doing it" on hump day and made some inappropriate comments. He shared a lot of his private life, including things I didn't even know he cared about.

This has created a huge issue for me. He said she was just a random person, and he didn't even notice her photo or bio, which is quite sexual.

Am I making a big deal out of this? – Twitter Widow

Dear Widow: Anyone can attach any avatar or picture to their profile on social media. Anyone can pose, pretend or create an alter-ego, as your husband

seems to have done. The woman he is communicating with might not be a woman — or anything "she" claims to be. So, in that sense, your husband is right: These people are truly "random."

Many people create "voices" on social media that might be unfamiliar to family members. It is a great space to try out jokes. express opinions or bring up matters that might surprise people who know you personally.

The "randomness" of the connection makes it seem like a safe space to create a version of yourself that is more assured than the flawed person people who know you see.

Your husband wants to flirt and to be flirted with. I hope you can use this episode to encourage him toward more of a connection between the two of

Ask him how he would feel if you were flirting or exchanging sexual banter with strangers. Ask if he could bring some of that energy to your marriage.

Dear Amy: I have an etiquette question.

I've recently graduated from my local community college with a degree in studio art. My classes were rather informal, with teachers being called by their first names.

Now that I've moved on to a university for my BFA, I was wondering if I should call my teachers "Profes-

I guess I'm asking because I know that I'm older than three of my professors, and I was always taught to use deferential titles.

– Kara

Dear Kara: I vote for "Professor," unless directed otherwise.

Age is immaterial. (I say this with the knowledge that if you keep going long enough, you will simply be older than everyone.)

One reason to use this title would be because every time you do, you will be reminded of your own hard-won status as a student headed toward a bachelor's degree.

You've progressed far enough to be taught by credentialed experts in their field, who have earned an honorific (your community college professors earned it, too — and they expressed their own preferences).

Credentials and professional titles aside, "teacher" and "student' are the highest callings any of us could follow. Congratulations!

Dear Amy: "Sick of it All" described their extreme isolation because of the pandemic. I disagree with your advice to "tiptoe" back into the world.

I am older with underlying health issues. I am extremely careful and will not risk being around unvaccinated people. I take walks with other vaccinated people, socialize outside and go to the library.

- My Health Comes First

Dear First: The things you are doing are exactly the kind of things I advised "Sick of it All" to do. You have tiptoed back into the world, and seem to be doing well.

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Jenkins' career made of lived-in performances

Character-actor everyman extraordinaire at center of 'Humans'

By Jake Coyle **Associated Press**

For a long time, it bothered Richard Jenkins that he didn't look or come off like the movie stars he grew up with. How could he, the son of a dentist from DeKalb, Illinois, measure up in the same business as Lawrence Olivier, Marlon Brando and Spencer Tracy?

"It's really hard to believe that you're enough. I mean, for me it was terrible," Jenkins says. "Sometimes I still don't. But you always go back to: 'You're it, buddy. That's all you got. If it's not enough, OK. But it's all you

It's appropriate that at the center of a film called "The Humans" is Jenkins, an everyman extraordinaire who has made a career of close-to-the-bone, lived-in performances. The film, directed by Stephen Karam from his Tony-winning play, is a harrowing ensemble piece led by a typically humble yet tourde-force performance by the 74-year-old Jenkins.

He plays Erik Blake, who, with wife Deidre (Jayne Houdyshell) and his elderly mother Momo (June Squibb), has arrived from Scranton, Pennsylvania, at their daughter's Chinatown apartment in New York City for Thanksgiving dinner. Brigid (Beanie Feldstein) and her boyfriend, Richard (Steven Yeun), have just moved into an aging basement duplex with streaky widows that look out on an airshaft. Inside the rundown apartment, lights flicker and the nearby boiler rumbles. Erik gazes as the mishmash maze of piping and the

holes that need caulking. Their conversation, with sister Aimee (Amy Schumer), reveals characters with their own brokenness. "The Humans," now

LIFETIME

playing in theaters and airing on Showtime, throbs with the existential dread of a family just hanging on. Helplessness and guilt hover especially over Erik, a longtime school custodian struggling to plug up all the Blakes' leaks.

"You read something and you go, 'Do I have anything to offer this?' Sometimes you say, 'No, not really. That's somebody else," Jenkins said. "But this one ... I understood his response to things. When I watched it, I thought, 'God, that's pretty me."

Karam makes his directorial debut with an adaptation of his Pulitzer Prize-finalist one-act. For the play, which opened on Broadway in 2016, Karam drew heavily from his own Scranton family to craft an unsettling Chekhovian drama heavy with metaphor. Living in prewar apartments and passing under painted-over steel beams in subway stations that seemed to him like fossils, Karam felt in his own New York existence the haunting echoes of the

For the film, Karam built an uncannily accurate replica of an apartment he once lived in, right down to the graffiti on the elevator. In taking "The Humans" from stage to screen, Karam enlarges and intensifies the drama.

"The space is decaying, but in some ways, I think of the space as being remarkably resilient, too — like human bodies and human beings," Karam says. "This family, for all of this struggle and strife and the breaking down of different aspects of their life — losing their girlfriend or their health or a mother — is holding on. I'm interested in how people keep bringing a gallon of paint."

Jenkins has lived in Prov-

idence, Rhode Island, with his wife, Sharon, for 52 years. They went expecting to stay a few years, but Jenkins became a company member of the Trinity Repertory Company for 14 years. "Lived there. Started doing movies. Just stayed," says Jenkins. They had two children. Jenkins would take the train down to New York for auditions. He didn't start landing film and TV parts until he was 35. He was 60 when he got his first lead role in a film, Tom McCarthy's "The Visitor" (one of two Oscar nominations for Jenkins; the other was for Guillermo del Toro's "The Shape of Water").

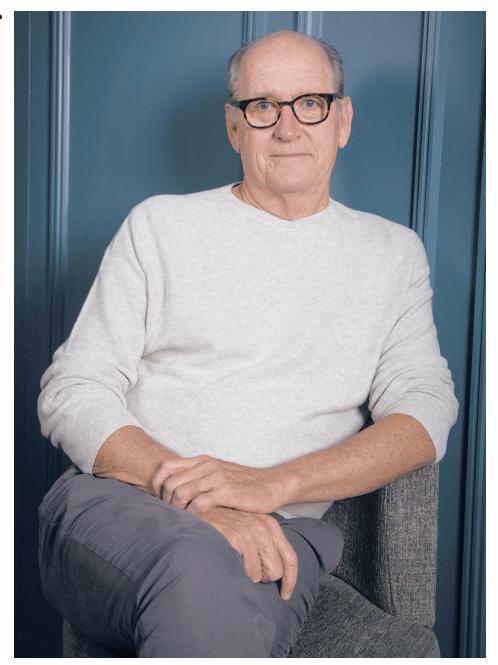
"I always say that in this profession you're going to get your ass kicked either when you're young or when you're old," says Jenkins, smiling. "It's better to get it over with."

One bit of advice changed everything him. Acting coach Harold Guskin, author of "How to Stop Acting," told Jenkins: "Quit trying to hide who vou are.'

"I was unhappy with myself as an actor for forever, the way I was doing it. I thought I had to either change and figure it out or do something else," Jenkins says. "It was boring me, and I thought if it's boring me, then the audience must be really thrilled. So that's what I've tried to do in the last 20, 25 years. Sometimes it's more successful than others. Sometimes I see myself and go, 'Why does anyone hire me?' Then sometimes I go, 'That's OK.'"

For Jenkins, it doesn't matter if a part has an accent, a limp, a murderous streak — any performance involves being comfortable in your own skin, being yourself.

"For you to deny that and



Actor Richard Jenkins, seen Nov. 17 in New York, stars in "The Humans." ANDY KROPA/INVISION

block that off, I think, is wrong," says Jenkins. "For me, it just doesn't work. It came later in life for me."

It has helped make Jenkins one of the most vulnerable and human of character actors - someone you feel like you know because, in a way, you do. Jenkins isn't John C. Reillv's father in "Step Brothers," or the scamming patriarch of "Kajillionaire," or the gay federal agent who unwittingly takes acid and asks "Is this a musical table?" in "Flirting With Disaster." But all of those parts reflect some of Jenkins' own good nature.

On "The Humans," Karam went in expecting Jenkins might have the proud certainty of a veteran performer only to find him curious, respectful and generous.

"The understanding of this family was just so specific that I almost had to shut up and listen to Richard talk about his kids and his life and his understanding of the family," says Karam. "That, to me, was

kind of magical."

In his mid-70s, Jenkins is perhaps more in-demand than ever. He reunites with Del Toro in the noir "Nightmare Alley," out Dec. 17. He'll play Jeffrey Dahmer's father in an upcoming miniseries from Ryan Murphy.

On film sets, Jenkins has gotten used to being the oldest person, he says, with the recent happy exception of the 92-year-old Squibb. He doesn't mind. He loves young people, he says.

"What happens is the older you get, the more you appreciate it. You look back on your life. I do. I live in the past," says Jenkins. "And you look back and you say, 'Oh my God.' People who say luck has nothing to do with it, they're full of (expletive). It's huge. If I hadn't done this. If I hadn't done that. If I hadn't gone in that room. If I didn't do that play. It's just one after another. I'm a lucky man. That's what I am."

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HOROSCOPES

Tarot.com

Aries (March 21-April 19): A sense of adventure is in the air today. Consider broadening your horizons throughout the day, whether by doing anything that could open your mind to new ways of thinking. Put any new discoveries to good use!

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Don't be surprised if today feels a little more intense than usual. It's a good day to tackle any difficult projects or wrap things up that you have left half-finished. You could have the urge to tidy up, Tasks will remind you of your professional obligations later in the day. Make every minute count.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): People play a very important role in your life currently. While you probably already understand the value of partnering up, at the moment the idiom "two heads are better than one" is true. One of them might prove to be even more useful than you could have ever anticipated!

Cancer (June 21-July 22): There's wonderful productivity to be found today, and it could strike a chord within you. Make an effort to put your best foot forward and get your energy going with something like a fun workout then try to keep it up with healthy foods throughout the day. You've got this!

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): You're being invited to enjoy yourself today, so feel free to live life to the fullest in whatever way you can! Treat yourself to good food, wear your favorite clothes, and do whatever you can to elevate every aspect of your life. It's OK to keep the spotlight to yourself.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Real efficiency is possible at this time, particularly when you focus. You'll likely have much success tending to little chores around the house, like tidying, taking out the trash, or restocking some household supplies. Handling tasks will give you more free time in the days ahead, so be responsible now!

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take a few moments first thing in the morning to center yourself and gather your energy before you hit the ground running! Fortunately, busy doesn't have to mean boring — you could have lots of fun as you bounce around, dealing with whatever little tasks present themselves to you.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. **21):** Money is probably on your mind now. Even if the week is winding down, go ahead and finish today on a high note. Do your best to make the most of today before it's time head home. A sweet home could lead to you having a truly satisfying night just hanging out on the couch.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You're going to be deep in your feelings today. Don't be shocked if vou find yourself pinging about between emotions throughout the day — do your best not to let it get to you! This is only temporary. This evening could offer a chance to connect with someone special.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. **19):** Life could feel a little bit surreal today, particularly as your dreamy subconscious encourages you to don your rose-colored glasses for the time being. If you normally follow a traditional path, be open to the magical possibilities that life brings your way. Put those fantastical vibrations to good use.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Connect with your friends, especially those that you have let drift. If there's anyone you haven't spoken with in a while, take the time to reach out and check in. This conversation could have more of an impact on you than you expect. Don't wait to pick up the phone!

Pisces (Feb. 19-March **20):** Some personal goals may need your focus at the moment. However, if you've been slacking, you might notice a gap where you'd prefer to receive more support. Do your best to stay determined as you toil away. You won't get anything if you don't give anything.

TODAY IN **HISTORY**

Associated Press

On Dec. 3, 1828, Andrew Jackson was elected president of the United States by the Electoral College.

In 1947, the Tennessee Williams play "A Streetcar Named Desire" opened.

In 1964, police arrested some 800 students at the University of California at Berkeley, one day after the students stormed the administration building and staged a massive sit-in.

In 1967, a surgical team in Cape Town, South Africa, performed the first human heart transplant.

In 1979, 11 people were killed in a crush of fans at

Cincinnati's Riverfront Coliseum.

In 2000, Gwendolyn Brooks, the first African American to win a Pulitzer, died at age 83.

In 2015, Defense Secretary Ash Carter ordered the armed services to open all military jobs to women, removing the final barriers that had kept women from serving in combat.

BONUS PUZZLE PAGE

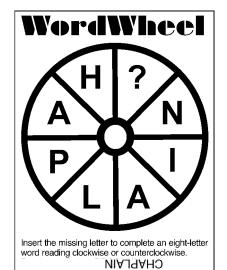
An extra array of word games, search and Jumble. Want more? Play online at **Play.Jumble.com**



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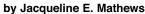




WORD SEARCH



TV CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Conway or Allen 4 Actress Tamblyn
- 9 Mayim Bialik's role on "The Big
- Bang Theory" Had a Hammer'
- 13 Hollandaise or Tabasco
- 14 Late Communist Chairman
- 15 Writing instrument
- 16 Liz __; Tina Fey's "30 Rock" role
 17 Actress Joan Van __
 18 "Now You __"; Jesse Eisenberg
 thriller
- 20 Bert's buddy 22 Role on "NCIS: New Orleans"
- 26 "Jack __ could eat no fat..."
 27 "How the West __ Won"
- 28 Suffix for cartoon or art 29 Actor Vigoda 32 "Once Upon _
- 35 Crime drama series for Josh Duhamel
- 39 "The __ Shore Show"
- 40 "Places in the __"; Sally Field movie
- 42 "The __ Couple"



- 43 Sophia Loren's birthplace
- 47 Jack __ of "Barney Miller" 48 Neckwear for Don Ho
- 49 Angered
- 50 CD followers
- 51 Suffix for old, cold or bold 52 Actor Willem __ 53 Easy and Sesame: abbr.

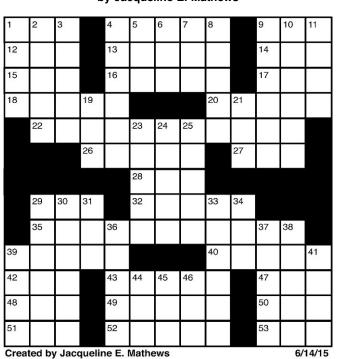
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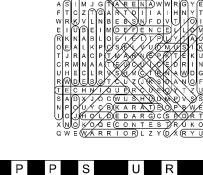
- __ over; spills "__ Pretty"; song from "West Side Story"
- 3 Actor Sal 4 Slumbering
- 5 Actress West
- Ne'er-do-well Prefix for system or sphere
- 8 Extend one's subscription
 9 __ Fuller of "Last Man Standing" 10 Antoinette and Osmond
- 11 Crosspiece connecting oxen 19 "Scarecrow and ___. King"
- _ Deal"; Schwarzenegger movie 23 "Law & Order: _ by Jury'
- of Honey"; hit song for
- Herb Alpert 25 Room under the roof 29 Tolerates
- Burt Revnolds 31 Greek letter

30 "Smokey and the __"; movie for

- 33 "Dr. Jekyll and 34 Special-order shoe width
- _ Watch"; Coby Bell series 37 __ up; relaxes 38 Steve of "60 Minutes"
- 39 Clinton's opponent in the 1996
- election 41 Clothing 44 Tamera's twin
- 45 Furry sitcom alien 46 __ G. Carroll of "Topper"





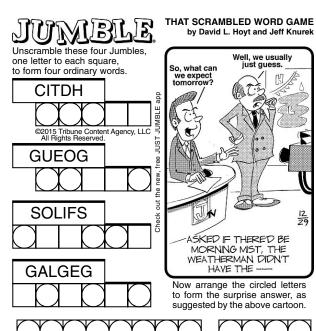


martial arts

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CELEBRITY

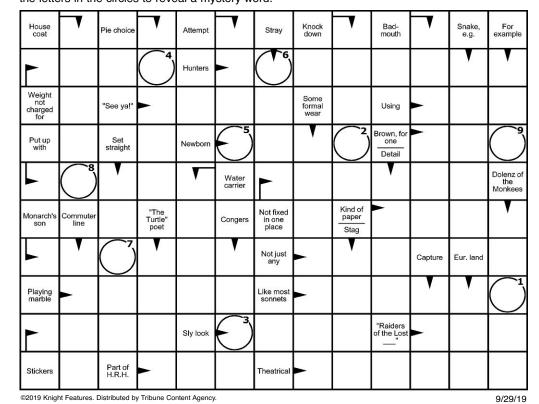
JUMBLE



Jumbles: DITCH GOUGE FOSSIL GAGGLE Answer: Asked if there'd be morning mist, the weatherman didn't have the — FOGGIEST IDEA

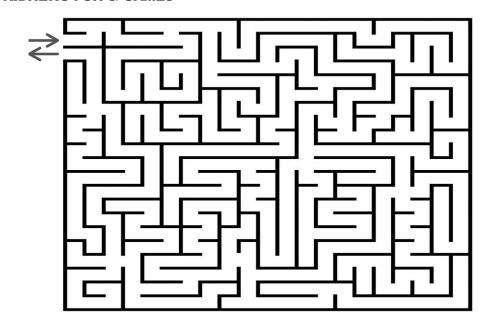
ARROW WORDS

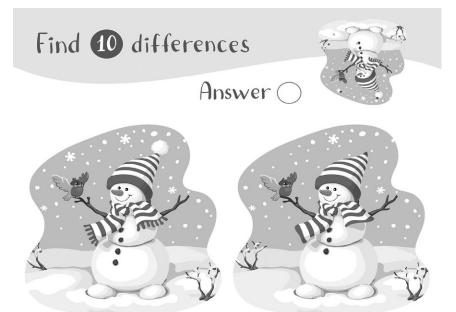
Fill in the grid using the clues provided in the direction of the arrows. When complete, unscramble the letters in the circles to reveal a mystery word.



2 5 6

KIDNEWS FUN & GAMES





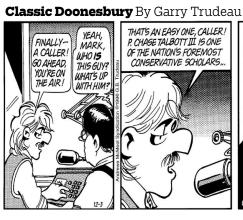
Peanuts By Charles M. Schulz















Garfield By Jim Davis







Shoe By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly





Dustin By Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker

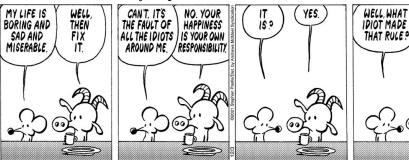




NEVER

MIND.

Pearls Before Swine By Stephan Pastis



utts By Patrick McDonnell



Arctic Circle By Alex Hallatt







Jump Start By Robb Armstrong





Get Fuzzy By Darby Conley









Blondie By Dean Young and John Marshall







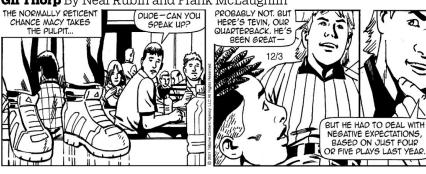
Dilbert By Scott Adams

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Gil Thorp By Neal Rubin and Frank McLaughlin



Mary Worth By Karen Moy and June Brigman

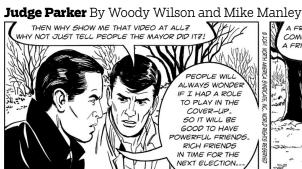


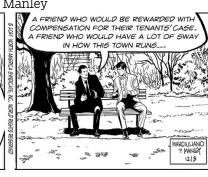


Rex Morgan, M.D. By Terry Beatty







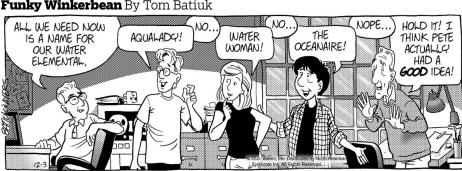


Baldo By Cantu and Castellanos

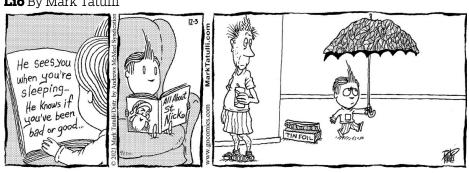




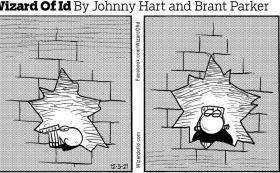
an by 10111 balluk



Lio By Mark Tatulli



Wizard Of Id By Johnny Hart and Brant Parker







Monty By Jim Meddick



For Better Or For Worse By Lynn Johnston











Beetle Bailey by Mort, Greg & Brian Walker





Hi & Lois By Greg and Brian Walker and Chance Browne



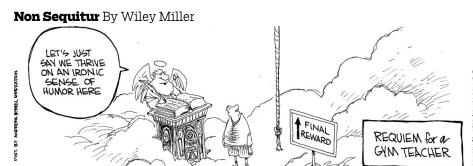


Hagar The Horrible By Chris Browne









WILEY O 2021 WILEY INK, LTR. /2-3 Curtis By Ray Billingsley









Pickles By Brian Crane









Zits By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman







Rose Is Rose By Pat Brady and Don Wimmer









Mother Goose And Grimm By Mike Peters



CROSSWORD

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

Across

Some model

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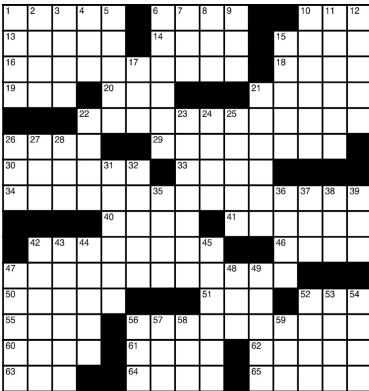
- Dexter Saloon Tsk relative Styling gel for a Max who owned 10 '50's teenager? the Woodstock "Dagnabbit!"
 - farmland 12 Pinched
 - 11 Discount phrase
 - "Hidden Figures" actress
 - Janelle . Tiny amount 21 Top dogs
 - 22 Wrestlerturned-actor
 - John 23 Not seasonal
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 - animal owners 26 Hold up

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- 31 **Tinder outings** There's a point 32

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 - Ito Certain clutch
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 - 44 Shooting
 - competition 45 A bit fuzzy, as an
 - image Blowing a lot
 - Evasive
 - 48 maneuver
 - 2001 scandal
 - subject
 - 52 Sound 53 Secondhand
 - 54 To a high degree 56 Bunny
 - White House 57 nickname
 - 58 Charged particle
 - 59 Farm mom



BRIDGE

BY STEVE BECKER

Bidding quiz

You are the dealer and open One Spade. Partner responds One Notrump. What would you bid now with each of the following five hands?

By Jeffrey Diton

- 1. [S] KQ743 [H] KQ6 [D] AJ3 [C] K9 2. [S] KJ7652 [H] A7 [D] 10 [C] AQ84
- 3. [S] AQJ85 [H] KQ972 [D] AQ [C] 7
- 4. [S] QJ10974 [H] A8 [D] KQJ [C] AK 5. [S] AKJ1096 [H] 3 [D] AK7 [C] J104
- 1. Two notrump. Partner's one notrump response shows six to 10 high-card points. As there is no way of knowing whether he is closer to the upper or lower end of this range, the best you can do is to invite him to bid again by raising to two notrump. Partner should pass with a minimum and continue bidding with a maximum.

The two-notrump bid logically shows 16 to 18 points. With less than 16 you'd pass one notrump because the combined hands could not contain 26 points. With 19 or more you'd raise to three notrump because the combined hands have no less than 25 points.

- 2. Two clubs. Despite your own strong preference for spades, you should bid two clubs. If partner passes, indicating a distinct preference for clubs over spades and minimum values for his one-notrump response, you are probably in the best contract. If you were to rebid two spades over one notrump, you'd run the risk of finding partner with a singleton spade and four or more clubs.
- 3. Three hearts. You should assume there's a game somewhere and therefore jump-shift to three hearts (forcing). It would be extremely pessimistic to bid only two hearts over one notrump, since partner might pass. There's no absolute guarantee you can make a game, but the odds favor strong action.

4. Four spades. Holding nine sure tricks, it is not overly optimistic of you to expect partner to provide at least one more. You should therefore bid game without further

Tribune Content Agency 12/3/21

It would be wrong to bid only three spades, which would run the risk of partner passing.

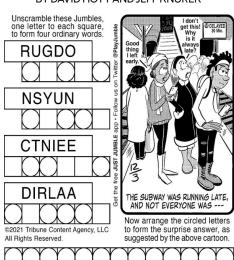
5. Three spades. With only seven sure winners, this hand is obviously not as strong as the previous one, so your best move is simply to invite partner to bid again.

If partner has minimum values for his notrump response, he'll pass -- and you may have trouble making even nine tricks But if partner has maximum values, he will bid again, and you'll probably wind up making at least ten tricks in four spades. With hands of intermediate strength, you must consult partner and abide by his decision.

Tomorrow: Fancy footwork.

JUMBLE

BY DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK



(Answers tomorrow) HASTY **HARDER** Answer: When her husband pretended to be a hula

dancer, he was - NO GREAT SHAKES

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS CROSSWORD PUZZLE

TODAY'S SUDOKU

		3					7	
8				5				4
		4				2		
					7		1	
	1	8			6		4	5
	9		3					
		9	2			1		
5				3				9
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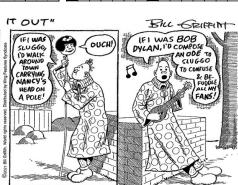
Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

Yesterday's

ANSWER TO **PREVIOUS PUZZLE** 4 2 5 7 8 3 9 4 2 3 7 3 5 6 1 4 9 1 7 2 8 5 6 9 4 3 4 6 5 7 1 2











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SPORTS

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COLLEGE WOMEN'S SOCCER WESLEYAN

Breakout season leads to 1st D-III final four

By Lori Riley Hartford Courant

Two years ago, the Wesleyan women's soccer team sat in the school's athletic center, watching the Division III NCAA tournament selection show and hoping that the Cardinals' 9-5-2 record would be good enough for an at-large bid.

It wasn't.

"Team by team gets announced, another one gets announced, it gets to be the last four teams and we were like, 'OK, we probably didn't make it," said Julia Meehan, a senior defender from Farmington. "Once it finished, people didn't say anything. We just packed up and were like, 'All right, guess that's it for this year."

The Cardinals have come a long way since then. Not only did they make it to their first NCAA Division III women's soccer tournament this year, they made it to the final four and will play No.

Up next
DIVISION III NCAA
TOURNAMENT SEMIFINAL
Wesleyan vs. The College
of New Jersey

1:45 p.m. Friday in Greensboro, N.C.

1 College of New Jersey in the national semifinal game in Greensboro, North Carolina on Friday at 1:45 p.m.

"At the beginning of the year, we all knew the talent we had on this team and the depth we had," Meehan said. "We knew we would be good, but we didn't know we would be this good."

Wesleyan (18-1-2) got an at-large bid (they weren't worried this time) after losing to Middlebury in overtime on penalty kicks in the NESCAC championship. Since then, the Cardinals won their first NCAA tournament game against Penn State Behrend, 1-0, then proceeded to beat Stevens in the second round, No. 2-ranked Johns Hopkins in the third round and No. 8 MIT 2-1 in overtime in the NCAA quarterfinals on Nov. 13.

The Cardinals are led by Meehan, Grace Devanny, Sarah Hammond and Emily Ribatt, who were all named All-Region by the United Soccer Soccer Coaches on Monday afternoon. Devanny, the 2021 NESCAC Player of the Year, was also named a First Team All-American on Wednesday. She leads the Cardinals with 12 goals and nine assists for 33 points in 21 games.

The path to success started a few years ago. The 2019 season was Wesleyan's best since 2011.

"I think we were good already then, but we had just started to learn to win more consistently," Wesleyan coach Eva Meredith said. "That's a big hurdle. We took the first steps in 2018 and 2019."

Turn to Wesleyan, Page 4



Wesleyan defender Julia Meehan, a senior from Farmington, dribbles the ball during an NCAA Div. III first round tournament game against Penn State Behrend. Wesleyan won its first NCAA Tournament game 1-0 and has advanced to the national semifinal game Friday against The College of New Jersey. WESLEYAN ATHLETICS

RED SOX

Jackie's back ...

What's next for Sox after surprising trade for Bradley?

By Steve Hewitt
Boston Herald

BOSTON — With a last-minute stunner, a trade that sent Hunter Renfroe to Milwaukee for the return of Jackie Bradley Jr. late Wednesday night right at the death of the now-expired collective bargaining agreement, Red Sox chief baseball officer Chaim Bloom left everyone with a wild cliffhanger.

What does it all mean? How does Bradley fit? What's the plan, and where do they go from here?

Those questions will be left unanswered for months after Major League Baseball officially instituted a lockout just after midnight Thursday morning. Transactions are now frozen until a new CBA is agreed to, meaning Bloom's next move—and what he's really thinking—likely won't come until at least February.

It's important to note that the trade wasn't simply a Renfroe-for-Bradley swap. The Red Sox received two prospects in the deal — third baseman Alex Binelas and shortstop David Hamilton — who ranked highly in the Brewers' farm system, and the real value of this trade will probably hinge on them.

But of course, neither prospect will likely help them in 2022. The trade presents the Red Sox with some clear needs when the work stoppage is over.

Bradley represents a clear defensive upgrade in the outfield over Renfroe. Though both were Gold Glove finalists this season, Renfroe, for all of his highlight-reel throws, was often a liability, leading the league in errors and finished the season with -1 defensive runs saved. Bradley had 12 DRS.

Where the Red Sox will need to make up ground is Renfroe's offensive production. He belted 31 homers and 96 RBI with an

Turn to Bradley, Page 2

Inside

Latest on the MLB lockout. **Page 3**

UCONN MEN'S SOCCER



UConn men's soccer head coach Ray Reid encourages his players during a 2017 game against Maryland in Storrs. Reid announced his retirement Thursday. **COURANT FILE**

THE BUILDER

Longtime soccer coach Reid, who vaulted UConn to the national stage, announces his retirement

By Dom Amore Hartford Courant

Ray Reid, who put Connecticut men's soccer on the national stage after winning NCAA championships at Southern Connecticut and UConn, is retiring next month.

Reid, 61, needs time to care for his elderly parents on Long Island. His last day at UConn is Jan. 31.

"I need to be available," Reid said.
"I'm not sure if I'm done working, but I can't run the UConn program at the level I need to."

Reid informed his players at a meeting on Thursday. Reid has been a fixture in the

Reid has been a fixture in the state's soccer community since arriving at Southern Connecticut as a student in 1981, serving as captain and then assistant coach for Bob Dikranian, who had built a Division II powerhouse there. Reid succeeded Dikranian as head coach in 1989 and won national championships in 1990, '92 and '95. He replaced another coaching legend — Joe Morrone — at UConn in 1997 and led the Huskies to the Division I title in 2000, plus eight Big East regular-season titles and four conference tournament titles. His career record as a head coach is 394-197-61, a .769 winning percentage.

"We tried to develop good people," Reid said. "We tried to develop good players, we tried to grow the game, and we tried to win a lot, and hopefully over 25 years, we did enough

Turn to Reid, Page 4



Reid celebrates with Chris Gbandi after UConn defeated Creighton 2-0 in the NCAA men's Division I championship Dec. 10, 2000. **AP FILE**

UCONN WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Throwing down a challenge

Auriemma's plea following loss to South Carolina: Be mentally tougher

By Alexa Philippou Hartford Courant

No. 2 UConn's 73-57 loss to top-ranked South Carolina in the Battle 4 Atlantis championship game last week showed the two identities Geno Auriemma's squad can have.

One is the team that strung together a 20-2 run against the No. 1 squad in the country. The other is the team that scored a mere three points in the fourth quarter, a collapse ensuring defeat.

There were basketball-specific issues that differentiate the two, ones Auriemma says the Huskies addressed in their last week of practice. For Auriemma, the underlying cause of what happened down the stretch last Monday was "mental fatigue" and lack of "mental toughness" that he and his staff have harped on even more than usual of late.

Friday's 7 p.m. game at Seton Hall will be the Huskies' first chance to see how all that work translates to actual game play, but Auriemma affirms he's already seen growth.

"Really good," Auriemma said about how the team responded to the challenge.

"I've been pleasantly surprised. We really, really, really challenged them, really challenged them."

Sophomore point guard Paige Bueckers and redshirt senior Evina Westbrook feel the difference too — both in how difficult practices have been and in how the team has embraced them.

"The intensity in practice

Turn to UConn, Page 4



UConn at Seton Hall 7 p.m., SNY

■ Inside: Breaking down the key matchups and storylines in tonight's game. Page 4

Did you know?

More people are injured after winter storms than during those storms.

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UP NEXT

Patriots: at Bills, Monday, 8:15 p.m. Giants: at Dolphins, Sunday, 1 p.m. Jets: Eagles, Sunday,

UConn MBB: Grambling State (Gampel), Saturday, 4 p.m.; Big East-Big 12 Battle: at West Virginia, Wednesday, 7 p.m.; Never Forget Tribute Classic: vs. St. Bonaventure (Newark, N.J.), Dec. 11, 3:30 p.m. UConn WBB: at Seton Hall, Friday, 7 p.m.; Notre Dame (Gampel), Sunday, noon: at Georgia Tech.

Thursday, 7 p.m. Celtics: at Jazz, Friday, 9 p.m.; at Trail Blazers, Saturday, 10 p.m.; at Lakers, Tuesday, 10 p.m. Knicks: Nuggets. Saturday, 1 p.m.; at Spurs, Tuesday, 8:30 p.m.; at Pacers, Wednesday, 7 p.m. **Nets:** Timberwolves, Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Bulls, Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; at Mavericks, Tuesday,

UConn hockey: at Merrimack, Friday, 7 p.m.; Merrimack, Saturday, 3 p.m.; at AIC, Thursday, 7 p.m.

Bruins: Lightning, Saturday, 7 p.m.; at Canucks, Wednesday, 9 p.m.; at Oilers, Thursday, 9 p.m.

Rangers: Sharks, Friday, 7 p.m.; Blackhawks, Saturday, 8 p.m.; at Blackhawks, Tuesday, 8:30 p.m.

Wolf Pack: Belleville, Wednesday, 7 p.m.; Lehigh Valley, Dec. 10, 7 p.m.; at Lehigh Valley, Dec. 12,

TV/RADIO **AUTO RACING**

8:25 a.m.: Formula 1 Racing Saudi Arabian Grand Prix, Practice 1. (Same-day Tape) ESPNU 11:55 a.m.: Formula 1 Racing Saudi Arabian Grand Prix, Practice 2. (Live) ESPN2

BASKETBALL 6 p.m.: Notre Dame at Boston College. (Live)

7 p.m.: Women's College: UConn at Seton Hall. (Live), SNY 7 p.m.: Rutgers at Illinois. (Live) ESPN2 7 p.m.: Kansas at St. Johns. (Live) FS1 7:30 p.m.: Minnesota Timberwolves at Brooklyn Nets. (Live), YES 7:30 p.m.: Philadelphia 76ers at Atlanta Hawks. (Live) ESPN 8 p.m.: Pittsburgh at Virginia. (Live) ACC 9 p.m.: Boston Celtics at Utah Jazz. (Live),

10:05 p.m.: Los Angeles Clippers at Los Angeles Lakers. (Live)

ESPN FOOTBALL

NBCSB

7 p.m.: Conference USA Championship - Western Kentucky at Texas-San Antonio. (Live) CBSSN 8 p.m.: Pac-12 Championship - Oregon vs Utah. (Live) ABC 1:30 p.m.: Hero World

Challenge, Second Round. (Live) GOLF

12 a.m. Sat.: Asian Tour Golf Laguna Phuket Championship, Third Round. (Live) GOLF 5 a.m. Sat.: Sunshine Tour Golf SA Open Championship, Third Round. (Live) GOLF **HOCKEY**

7 p.m.: San Jose Sharks at New York Rangers. (Live),

10 p.m.: Calgary Flames at Anaheim Ducks. (Live)

SPRTNET SOCCER 7 p.m.: Womens College: NCAA Womens College

Cup: Semifinal - Rutgers vs Florida State. (Live) **ESPNU** 9:30 p.m.: Womens

College: NCAA Womens College Cup: Semifinal -Santa Clara vs BYU. (Live) **FSPNU**

5 a.m. Sat.: 2021 FIFA Arab Cup Jordan vs Morocco. (Live) FS1

TENNIS 8 a.m.: ATP Tennis Sao Paulo-ATP Challenger, Quarterfinals. (Live)

10 a.m.: Davis Cup Tennis Quarterfinals Match-Up TBD. (Live) CBSSN 2:30 p.m.: ATP Tennis Sao Paulo-ATP Challenger, Doubles Semifinal 2. (Live) TENNIS

LATE WEDNESDAY CELTICS 88, 76ERS 87

Tatum's double-double just enough

Associated Press

BOSTON — Jayson Tatum had made just one of his first six shots against Philadelphia when Celtics coach Ime Udoka came to him with a pep talk of sorts.

"I told him it would be nice to make a shot," Udoka said. "He looked up at me and said, 'I've got nine rebounds."

Tatum scored 26 points with a career-high 16 rebounds Wednesday night, shaking off a slow start

and a hard fourth-quarter fall to lead Boston to an 88-87 victory over the

Tatum scored 11 points in the fourth, and Robert Williams III blocked Georges Niang's shot at the buzzer to give the Celtics a victory in their first game this season against their longtime Eastern Conference rivals and former coach Doc Rivers.

It was Boston's lowest scoring total for a win in almost four years.

"I'm not really going to apologize for an ugly win," Udoka said. "It

happens."
Al Horford, who left Boston to sign with the Sixers in 2019 and had the worst season of his career, had 10 points, eight rebounds and five blocked shots. Getting shipped out from Philadelphia to Oklahoma City the following year was "a very low point for me," he said.

"I was written off," he said. "I'm just glad I got another opportunity in a place I want to be. There's a lot of satisfaction being back here and playing at a high level." Horford also helped hold Joel Embiid to 3-of-17 shooting.

"We challenged him to take pride in that matchup," Udoka said. "[Embiid is] a guy he knows well, playing with him, playing against him. ... He's a prideful guy. One stop, one blip on the radar doesn't define his entire career, and I think he's shown who he really is."

Embiid had 18 rebounds and 13 points for the Sixers. Seth Curry scored 17 points and Shake Milton came off the bench to add 16.

NFL NOTES

Patriots embracing high-stakes showdown with Bills

Courant news services

After two decades of lopsided play, two losses flipped the Patriots-Bills series on its head last year.

First, Buffalo edged an undermanned Pats midseason, then smashed it to bits in a 38-9 blowout in December, the worst home loss of Bill Belichick's tenure. The Patriots' embarrassment was broadcast nationally on Monday Night Football, and the AFC East rivals haven't seen each other since.

Now, rebuilt and refortified, the 8-4 Pats travel to Buffalo for another Monday showdown looking to restore their version of order in the division and capture what the Bills sought from them basically since Belichick arrived: validation.

"We're on to Buffalo now, and that's the focus," wide receiver Kendrick Bourne said last weekend. "That'll be good for us to just certify ourselves."

On Wednesday, Belichick declared the Bills (7-4) as good as any team he's faced this season. Later that afternoon, tight end Hunter Henry called Monday night's showdown a "defining game."

Though not all of Henry's teammates agreed.

"I don't think it's going to be like the end of the season if we win or lose. And if we win, I don't think we wrap up the division or conference, so I don't know," said safety Devin McCourty. But it's a big game, though."

McCourty concedes both teams recognize what's at stake, and should consequently deliver their best shots at one another. Here's what at stake Monday for the Pats: a head start on the AFC East title.

According to FiveThirtyEight, the Patriots' odds of winning the division will plummet to 21% with a loss Monday night because Buffalo boasts a superior division record. If they win,



Patriots quarterback Mac Jones looks for a receiver during Sunday's game in Foxborough, Mass. STEVEN SENNE/AP

those odds soar to 78%.

Then, they'll have four more games left, including a home rematch with the Bills. In essence, winning Monday would help like a game-opening touchdown drive in a game represents the remainder of their season.

— Andrew Callahan, Boston Herald

Giants: Kitchens still calling plays; Jones still questionable

Joe Judge isn't making the Miami Dolphins guess about who will be calling the offensive plays for the New York Giants this weekend.

Former Cleveland Browns coach Freddie Kitchens handled the role against the Eagles after Jason Garrett was fired last week, and he's going to have the headset Sunday when the Giants (4-7) visit the Dolphins (5-7) to kick off a two-game road trip.

While the Giants were limited to 264 yards in a 13-7 win over Philadelphia, Kitchens felt the play calling went smoothly.

One distinct change was seeing quarterback Daniel Jones wearing a wristband for the first time in his three NFL seasons. It allows Kitchens to say a number over his headset and Jones just looks at a corresponding play

on the wristband. The quarterback calls the play, gets the team out of the huddle quickly, then he has more time to look at the defense and change the call, if necessary.

"I think he saw the benefits of it," Kitchens said Thursday in handling the offensive coordinator's responsibility with the media. "Everywhere I've always been, I think they do it around the league a lot, you see quarterbacks with wristbands. It helps the communication process, but it's just like any other thing, you've got to practice that as well."

Kitchens started this week with concerns about Jones, who strained his neck against the Eagles when he was hit at the end of a running play early. He practiced on a limited basis on Wednesday and Thursday, and it appears he is feeling better. Judge said Thursday that Jones has

not been cleared to play by the team's medical personnel, but he would be willing to wait until the day of the game before making a final decision. "I expect Daniel to come out ... and

practice and I fully expect it to be just like regular old times," Kitchens said. If Jones can't play, veteran Mike

Glennon would get his first start of the season. Jones is a better runner than Glennon, but both men are experienced. Tom Canavan, Associated Press

HOCKEY Wolf Pack among AHL teams forced to

postpone games

By Alex Putterman Hartford Courant

The American Hockey League has postponed three Hartford Wolf Pack games

due to COVID-19 protocols. The Wolf Pack did not play as scheduled Wednesday night against the Springfield Thunderbirds and also won't play Friday on the road against the Providence Bruins or Saturday at home against the Utica Comets.

On Wednesday, the AHL announced it postponed games involving those teams as well as games involving the Hershey Bears and Rochester Americans. On Thursday, the AHL also postponed Friday's game between the Henderson Silver Knights and Bakersfield Condors due to league COVID-19 protocols. Make-up dates have been announced for some but not all of the postponed contests.

The league has not offered details on the cause for the postponements but said in a statement that the impacted organizations "will be followingenhanced protocols at the direction of team medical staff and the AHL."

The Wolf Pack said in a statement that the decision to postpone games was "made in consultation with medical experts and the AHL."

The team is encouraging season-ticket holders to hold onto their tickets for Saturday's game in Hartford until a make-up date is announced. Single-game ticket holders may exchange their tickets in person at the XL Center ticket office or over the phone at 860-727-8010.

Most AHL teams, including most of the league's Eastern Conference, play in areas currently experiencing high rates of COVID-19. That includes Connecticut, where cases have recently reached their highest level since April.

Bradley

from Page 1

.816 OPS as a fixture in the middle of Boston's lineup, while Bradley struggled through one of the worst offensive seasons in the last 40 years, finishing with a .497 OPS in 428 plate appearances. Bloom is hopeful that a return to Boston will help him get back on track at the plate, but it can't be counted on. It's almost a lock that he'll look for a bat to make up for the righthanded Renfroe's loss.

"I do still think we have room to add position players to this crew," Bloom said. "Obviously, swapping Hunter for Jackie does change the handedness of our group a little bit. So, maybe the dial moves a little more toward a right-handed bat, where before it might have been more toward a left-handed bat."

Before the trade, it seemed more likely that the Red Sox would pursue the left-handed Kyle Schwarber, who was one of their best offensive performers after last season's trade deadline acquisition. But as Bloom noted, a right-handed bat may be more of a priority now. And without the certainty of Bradley's role, it makes sense they would target another corner outfielder with that

Or, maybe the Red Sox would look for a big splash to fill that offensive void. Shortstop Carlos Correa is still a free agent, is a favorite of Alex Cora's and has reported interest from the Red Sox. That would likely force Xander Bogaerts to second base, but



The Red Sox acquired former Boston player Jackie Bradley Jr. from Milwaukee in a trade that sent outfielder Hunter Renfroe to the Brewers on Wednesday night. DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP

would significantly boost

Yankees' Taillon feeling full weight of lockout

their offense and defense.

Hours after commissioner Rob Manfred dramatically shut down the business of major league baseball, players were reacting. At least one Yankee pitcher was doing it with a sharp sense of humor.

Jameson Taillon, who is rehabbing from ankle surgery, pointed out the absurdity of the lockout preventing him from consulting with the Yankees rehab staff after the lockout. The right-hander took to Twitter to make his point sarcastically.

"Since MLB chose to lock us out, i'm not able to work with our amazing team Physical Therapists who have been leading my post surgery care/

progression. Now that I'm in charge of my own PT- what should my first order of business be? I'm thinking I'm done with this boot. It can go."

Taillon, who has a remarkable story of coming back from two Tommy John surgeries and a fight with testicular cancer, ended the tweet with a smiling emoji.

Players like Taillon are the ones that will actually feel the effects of the lockout now on the deadline set by Manfred and baseball. The commissioner announced the owners were locking out the players in the middle of the night after the Collective Bargaining Agreement expired at 11:59 p.m. Wednesday night.

"The lockout won't pressure or intimidate players into a deal that they don't believe is fair," union head Tony Clark told reporters Thursday morning.

New York Daily News

MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Yard Goats named the top Double-A franchise by Baseball America

By Dom Amore Hartford Courant

Award.

The Hartford Yard Goats have reaped another national honor. Baseball America named the franchise the winner of the 2021 Double-A Bob Freitas

The Freitas award recognizes the top minor league baseball franchises for their community involvement, long-term business success and consistent operational excellence.

"This is a tremendous honor for Baseball America to recognize the Yard Goats," Yard Goats president Tim Restall said in a team statement. "We take great pride in our community and have always felt that we can be so much more than just a baseball team. We share this award with our passionate fan base, partners, and season ticket holders."

Since moving to Hartford from New Britain and opening Dunkin' Donuts Park in 2017, the Yard Goats have consistently been at the top of the Eastern League, now called Double-A Northeast, in attendance. Both the franchise and the ballpark have won multiple awards. This is the first time that the Yard Goats were chosen for this award among all the Double-A teams across America.

"The Freitas Award is our chance to honor the entire operation of a minor league baseball team from the owner and general manager to the ticket taker and clubhouse manager," said J.J. Cooper, Baseball America's editor-in-chief. "Hartford has continually impressed by doing everything at a top-notch level, from stadium operations and fan experience to their MiLB.tv broadcast, which ranked No. 1 in 2019.'

The Yard Goats led the league in total attendance in 2018, 2019 and 2021, with no minor league baseball played in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. More than 1.5 million fans have come to games at the ballpark.

The franchise has been visible in the community, even during the cancelled season. Dunkin' Donuts Park has been used for amateur games, charity events, COVID vaccination clinics, high school and college graduations, the Links at the Yard golf event, goat yoga, and ESPN's "Bark in the Park" telecast on national TV.

Dom Amore can be reached at damore@ courant.com

SCOREBOARD

NHL							
EASTERN C	ON	FEI	SEN	NC.	E		
ATLANTIC		w			PTS	GF	GA
Toronto	24	17	6	1	35	74	52
Florida	22	15	4	3	33	82	60
Tampa Bay	21	12	5	4	28	67	60
Detroit	24	12	9	3	27	67	75
Boston	19	11	8	0	22	57	53
Buffalo	22	8	11	3	19	64	77
Montreal	24	6	16	2	14	55	85
Ottawa	20	4	15	1	9	48	79
METRO.	GP	W	L	ОТ	PTS	GF	GA
Washington	23	14	4	5	33	82	57
Carolina	21	15	5	1	31	67	47
N.Y. Rangers	21	14	4	3	31	64	55
Pittsburgh	23	10	8	5	25	65	66
Columbus	20	12	8	0	24	67	65
New Jersey	20	9	7	4	22	59	63
Philadelphia	21	8	9	4	20	50	65
N.Y. Islanders	17	5	10	2	12	32	52
WESTERN C	.01	ıcc	DE	NC	-		
CENTRAL	GP				PTS	GF	GA
			_				
Minnesota	22	15	6	1	31	83	66
St. Louis	22	12	7	3	27	75	62
Nashville	22	12	9	1	25	64	63
Dallas	20	11	7	2	24	57	56
Winnipeg	22	10	8	4	24	60	61
Colorado	19	11	7	1	23	76	64
Chicago	21	7	12	2	16	45	67
Arizona	23	5	16	2	12	42	82

GP W L OT PTS GF GA

21 16 5 0 32

21 16 5 0 32 22 13 4 5 31 24 13 8 3 29 22 12 9 1 25 22 12 10 0 24 s 21 9 8 4 22 23 8 13 2 18 24 8 14 2 18 Vegas Los Angeles 21 Vancouver **NOTE:** Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs THURSDAY'S RESULTS Buffalo at Florida, late Chicago at Washington, late Colorado at Montreal, late Ottawa at Carolina, late St. Louis at Tampa Bay, late

PACIFIC Edmonton

Calgary

San Jose at N.Y. Islanders, late Boston at Nashville, late New Jersey at Minnesota, late Columbus at Dallas, late Calgary at Los Angeles, late FRIDAY'S GAMES San Jose at N.Y. Rangers, 7p.m.

New Jersey at Winnipeg, 8p.m. Vegas at Arizona, 9:30p.m. Calgary at Anaheim, 10p.m. Edmonton at Seattle, 10p.m. SATURDAY'S GAMES

Buffalo at Carolina, 7p.m. Colorado at Ottawa, 7p.m. Columbus at Washington, 7p.m. Montreal at Nashville, 7p.m. N.Y. Islanders at Detroit, 7p.m. Tampa Bay at Boston, 7p.m. Toronto at Minnesota, 7p.m. Chicago at N.Y. Rangers, 8p.m. Pittsburgh at Vancouver, 10p.m.

SUNDAY'S GAMES Sun Jose at Columbus, 6p.m.
Tampa Bay at Philadelphia, 6p.m.
Chicago at N.Y. Islanders, 7:30p.m.
Los Angeles at Edmonton, 8p.m. Toronto at Winnipeg, 8p.m. Calgary at Vegas, 10p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS N.Y. Rangers 4, Philadelphia 1 Vancouver 6, Ottawa 2 Toronto 8, Colorado 3 Detroit 4, Seattle 3, SO Anaheim 6, Vegas 5 Edmonton 5, Pittsburgh 2

DAVIS CUP WORLD GROUP FINAL THURSDAY QUARTERFINALS Hard-Indoor, Group Round Robin At Madrid Arena, Madrid, Spain RUSSIAN FEDERATION 2, SWEDEN 0 Andrey Rublev (RTF) d. Elias Ymer, 6-2, 5-7, 7-6(3) Daniil Medvedev (RTF) d. Mikael Ymer.

Aslan Karatsev/Andrey Rublev (RTF) vs. Andre Goransson/Robert Lindstedt,

FRIDAY SEMIFINAL. Madrid Arena SATURDAY SEMIFINAL. Madrid Arena

Russian Federation vs. Germany, 7a.m. SUNDAY CHAMPIONSHP

Madrid Arena, Madrid, Spain, 10 a.m.

COLLEGE BA		
FAVORITE	LINE	O/U UNDERDOG
Notre Dame	4	(134) atBoston Coll.
Kansas	7	(1561/2) at San Jose St.
at Canisius	2	(1411/2) Farifield
at Iona	141/2	(140) Rider
Monmouth	Ε	(137) at Niagara
at Siena	11/2	(1291/2) Manhattan
at Furman	81/2	(1571/2) Cleveland St.
at Illinois	81/2	(133½) Rutgers
Saint Peter's	21/2	(137) at Quinnipiac
at Virginia	141/2	(115) Pittsburgh
N. Mexico St.	1	(137½) at UTEP
at Texas	28	(140½) UTRGV
at Purdue	11	(159) Iowa
at Boise State	8	(129½) Tulsa
at San Jose St.	7	(1401/2) N. Dakota
at UCSB	91/2	(137) Pepperdine
at Portland	3	(143) VMI

NBA			FRIDAY
FAVORITE	LINE	O/U	UNDERDO
at Indiana	off	(off)	Miam
at Washington	31/2	(208)	Cleveland
at Atlanta	6	(220)	Philadelphia
at Brooklyn	off	(off)	Minnesota
at Houston	off	(off)	Orlando
at Dallas	71/2	(2181/2) New Orleans
at Utah	off	(off)	Bostor
LA Clippers	2	(217)	at LA Lakers
at Golden State	e 7	(2151/2) Phoenix

NHL		F	RIDAY
FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG	Line
at N.Y Rangers	-176	San Jose	+146
at Winnipeg	-170	New Jersey	+140
Las Vegas		at Arizona	+176
Calgary	-134	at Anaheim	+112
Edmonton	-120	at Seattle	+100

FRIDAY

UNDERDOG

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

at California 3½ (57½)

W. Kentucky	2	(711/2)	at UTSA
at Utah	21/2	(59)	Oregon
			SATURDAY
at Oklahoma St.	41/2	(461/2)	Baylor
Kent State	31/2	$(74\frac{1}{2})$	at N. Illinois
at San Diego St	61/2	$(49\frac{1}{2})$	Utah State
Appalachian St	21/2	(531/2) 8	at La Lafayette
at Cincinnati	101/2	$(52\frac{1}{2})$	Houston
Georgia	61/2	$(49\frac{1}{2})$	at Alabama
Michigan	101/2	$(43\frac{1}{2})$	at Iowa
Pittsburgh	21/2	$(71\frac{1}{2})$ a	at Wake Forest

SP O/U

NFL WEEK 13	;		SUNDAY
FAVORITE	SP	O/U	UNDERDOG
Minnesota	7	(461/2)	at Detroit
at Miami	41/2	$(40\frac{1}{2})$	NY Giants
Tampa Bay	11	$(50\frac{1}{2})$	at Atlanta
at Cincinnati	3	$(50\frac{1}{2})$	LA Chargers
Indianapolis	10	$(45\frac{1}{2})$	at Houston
Philadelphia	7	$(45\frac{1}{2})$	at NY Jets
Arizona	71/2	$(43\frac{1}{2})$	at Chicago
at Kansas City	off	off	Denver
at Las Vegas	21/2	$(49\frac{1}{2})$	Washington
Baltimore	41/2	(44)	at Pittsburgh
at LA Rams	13	$(47\frac{1}{2})$	Jacksonville
at Seattle	off	off S	an Francisco
			MONDAY

21/2 (421/2) New England For the latest odds, go to

FanDuel Sportsbook, https://sportsbook.fanduel.com/

iittps://spoitsbook.iaiiddei.com/	
ODDS TO WIN HEISMAN TRO	РН۱
Bryce Young (Alabama, QB)	1-
CJ Stroud (Ohio State-QB)	9-
Aidan Hutchinson (Michigan-DE)	8-
Kenny Pickett (Pittsburgh-QB)	18-
Matt Corral (Ole Miss-QB)	20-
Kenneth Walker III (Mich. St-RB)	20-
Jordan Davis (Georgia-DT)	50-
Will Anderson, Jr. (Alabama-LB)	50-
Desmond Ridder (Cincinnati-QB)	80-
Cade McNamara (Michigan-QB)	80-
Sam Hartman (Wake Forest-QB)	80-
source: betmgm	

NBA				
EASTERN CONI	FERE	NCE		
ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Brooklyn	15	6	.714	_
Boston	12	10	.545	$3\frac{1}{2}$
New York	11	10	.524	4
Philadelphia	11	11	.500	4 1/2
Toronto	9	13	.409	6 ½
SOUTHEAST	W	L	PCT	GB
Washington	14	8	.636	_
Miami	13	9	.591	1
Atlanta	12	10	.545	2
Charlotte	13	11	.542	2
Orlando	5	18	.217	9 ½
CENTRAL	W	L	PCT	GB
Milwaukee	14	8	.636	_
Chicago	14	8	.636	_
Cleveland	12	10	.545	2
Indiana	9	15	.375	6
Detroit	4	17	.190	9 ½
WESTERN CON				
SOUTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Dallas	11	9	.550	_
Memphis	11	10	.524	1/2
San Antonio	6	13	.316	$4\frac{1}{2}$
New Orleans	6	18	.250	7
Houston	5	16	.238	6 1/2
NORTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Utah	14	7	.667	_
Portland	11	11	.500	3 1/2
Minnesota	11	11	.500	$3\frac{1}{2}$
Denver	10	11	.476	4
Oklahoma City	6	15	.286	8
PACIFIC	w	L	PCT	GB
PACIFIC Phoenix	W	L	PCT .857	GB —
Phoenix Golden State	18 18	3	.857 .857	
Phoenix Golden State L.A. Lakers	18 18 12	3 3 11	.857 .857 .522	- - 7
Phoenix Golden State	18 18	3	.857 .857	GB - - 7 7 ½

THURSDAY'S RESULTS Chicago at New York, late Milwaukee at Toronto, late Oklahoma City at Memphis, late Detroit at Phoenix late San Antonio at Portland, late

FRIDAY'S GAMES Cleveland at Washington, 7p.m. Miami at Indiana, 7p.m. Minnesota at Brooklyn, 7:30p.m. Philadelphia at Atlanta, 7:30p.m. Orlando at Houston, 8p.m. New Orleans at Dallas, 8:30p.m. Boston at Utah, 9p.m. L.A. Clippers at L.A. Lakers, 10p.m.

Phoenix at Golden State, 10p.m.

SATURDAY'S GAMES Denver at New York, 1p.m. Chicago at Brooklyn, 7:30p.m. Miami at Milwaukee, 8p.m. Memphis at Dallas, 8:30p.m Boston at Portland, 10p.m. L.A. Clippers at Sacramento, 10p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS Atlanta 114, Indiana 111 Orlando 108, Denver 103 Washington 115, Minnesota 107 Cleveland 111, Miami 85 Boston 88, Philadelphia 87 Dallas 139, New Orleans 107 Houston 114, Oklahoma City 110 Milwaukee 127, Charlotte 125 Sacramento 124, L.A. Clippers 115

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

FRIDAY'S GAMES Conf. USA Championship, San Antonio Western Kentucky (8-4) vs. UTSA (11-1), 7p.m.

Pac-12 Championship, Las Vegas Oregon (10-2) vs. Utah (9-3), 8p.m. SATURDAY'S GAMES

Big 12 Championship, Arlington, Tex. Baylor (10-2) vs. Oklahoma State (11-1), noon **MAC Championship, Detroit**

Kent State (7-5) vs. Northern Illinois (8-4), noon Mtn. West Championship, Carson, Calif. Utah State (9-3) vs. San Diego State (11-1), 3p.m.

Sun Belt Championship, Lafayette, La. Appalachian State (10-2) vs. La-Lafayette (11-1), 3:30p.m. SWAC Championship, Jackson, Miss, Jackson St. (10-1) vs. Prairie View (7-4), 4 p.m. SEC Championship, Atlanta Georgia (12-0) vs. Alabama (11-1), 4 p.m American Ath. Championship, Cincinnati Houston (11-1) vs.

Cincinnati (12-0), 4p.m. Big Ten Championship, Indianapolis Michigan (11-1) vs. Iowa (10-2), 8p.m. ACC Championship, Charlotte, N.C. Pittsburgh (10-2) vs

Wake Forest (10-2), 8p.m. Also: USC (4-7) vs. California (4-7), 11 p.m.

NCAA FCS PLAYOFFS FRIDAY'S SECOND ROUND

Holy Cross at Villanova, 7p.m. E. Washington at Montana, 9p.m. SATURDAY'S SECOND ROUND Incarnate Word at Sam Houston, 3p.m. UT-Martin at Montana St., 4p.m. S. Illinois at North Dakota St., 3:30p.m. Kennesaw St. at ETSU, 2p.m. S. Dakota St. at Sacramento St., 9p.m. SE Louisiana at James Madison, 2p.m.

NCAA DIVISION II PLAYOFFS SATURDAY'S QUARTERFINALS Shepherd vs. Kutztown, noon NW Missouri St. vs. Ferris St., 1p.m. Bowie St. vs. Valdosta St., 1p.m

Angelo St. vs. Colorado Mines, 2p.m. **NCAA DIVISION III PLAYOFFS**

SATURDAY'S QUARTERFINALS Muhlenberg vs. Mount Union, noon Mary Hardin-Baylor vs. Linfield, 1p.m. Rensselaer vs. North Central, 1p.m. Central (IA) vs. Wis.-Whitewater, 1p.m.

MLS CUP PLAYOFFS SATURDAY, WEST CONFERENCE FINALS at Providence Park, Portland, Ore. #4 Portland vs.

#7 Real Salt Lake, 6:30p.m. SUNDAY, EAST CONFERENCE FINALS at Subaru Park, Chester, Pa. #4 New York City FC, 3p.m.

MLS CUP FINAL, DEC. 11

ENGLISH PREI	MIE GP			AGUE L GF	G۸	PT
			_			
Chelsea		10		1 33	6	33
Man City	14	10	2	2 29	8	32
Liverpool	14	9	4	1 43		31
West Ham	14	7	3	4 25	17	24
Arsenal	14	7	2	5 17	20	23
Tottenham	13	7	1	5 13	17	22
Man United	14	6	3	5 24	24	21
Wolverhampton	14	6	3	5 12	12	21
Brighton	14	4	7	3 13	15	19
Leicester	14	5	4	5 22	25	19
Crystal Palace	14	3	7	4 19	20	16
Brentford	14	4	4	6 17	19	16
Aston Villa	14	5	1	8 19	23	16
Everton	14	4	3	7 17	24	15
Leeds	14	3	6	5 13	20	15
Southampton	14	3	6	5 13	20	15
Watford .	14	4	1	9 19	26	13
Burnley	13	1	7	5 14	20	10
Norwich	14	2	4	8 8	28	10
Newcastle	14	0	7	7 16	30	7
THURSDAY'S RE	SIII.	TS				

Man United 3, Arsenal 2

SATURDAY'S MATCHES West Ham vs. Chelsea. 7:30a.m. Newcastle vs. Burnley, 10a.m. Southampton vs. Brighton, 10a.m. Wolverhampton vs. Liverpool, 10a.m. Watford vs. Man City, 12:30p.m.

SUNDAY'S MATCHES Leeds vs. Brentford, 9a.m. Man United vs. Crystal Palace, 9a.m. Tottenham vs. Norwich. 9a.m. Aston Villa vs. Leicester, 11:30a.m.

MONDAY'S MATCH Everton vs. Arsenal, 3p.m.

NFL						
AMERICAN (COI W	NFE L	REN T	ICE PCT	PF	PA
New England	8	4	0	.667	336	190
Buffalo	7	4	0	.636	326	182
Miami	5	7	0	.417	234	279
N.Y. Jets	3	8	0	.273	199	334
SOUTH	W	L	Т	PCT	PF	PA
Tennessee	8	4	0	.667	304	290
Indianapolis	6	6	0	.500	340	283
Houston	2	9	0	.182	164	292
Jacksonville	2	9	0	.182	173	283
NORTH	W	L	Т	PCT	PF	PA
Baltimore	8	3	0	.727	263	240
Cincinnati	7	4	0	.636	309	226
Pittsburgh	5	5	1	.500	224	267
Cleveland	6	6	0	.500	254	267
WEST	W	L	Т	PCT	PF	PA
Kansas City	7	4	0	.636	281	250
Denver	6	5	0	.545	228	196
L.A. Chargers	6	5	0	.545	273	293
Las Vegas	6	5	0	.545	259	295

ı	L.A. Chargers	6	5	0	.545 273 293
I	Las Vegas	6	5	0	.545 259 295
I	NATIONAL C	:01	IFER	REN	CE
I	EAST	W	L	Т	PCT PF PA
I	Dallas	7	4	0	.636 326 250
l	Washington	5	6	0	.455 229 282
l	Philadelphia	5	7	0	.417 304 273
l	N.Y. Giants	4	7	0	.364 202 253
I	SOUTH	w	L	Т	PCT PF PA
I	Tampa Bay	8	3	0	.727 347 253
l	Atlanta	5	6	0	.455 199 302
I	New Orleans	5	6	0	.455 257 249
l	Carolina	5	7	0	.417 236 253
I	NORTH	W	L	Т	PCT PF PA
I	Green Bay	9	3	0	.750 283 242
l	Minnesota	5	6	0	.455 281 276
l	Chicago	4	7	0	.364 179 254
l	Detroit	0	10	1	.045 174 289
I	WEST	w	L	Т	PCT PF PA
I	Arizona	9	2	0	.818 310 202
I	L.A. Rams	7	4	0	.636 299 263
I	San Francisco	6	5	0	.545 280 248
I	Seattle	3	8	0	.273 209 226
ı					

WEEK 13 THURSDAY'S RESULT Dallas at New Orleans, late

SUNDAY'S GAMES Arizona at Chicago, 1p.m. Indianapolis at Houston, 1p.m. L.A. Chargers at Cincinnati, 1p.m. Minnesota at Detroit, 1p.m. N.Y. Giants at Miami, 1p.m. Philadelphia at N.Y. Jets, 1p.m. Tampa Bay at Atlanta, 1p.m. Jacksonville at L.A. Rams, 4:05p.m. Washington at Las Vegas, 4:05p.m. Baltimore at Pittsburgh, 4:25p.m. San Francisco at Seattle, 4:25p.m. Denver at Kansas City, 8:20p.m.

MONDAY'S GAME New England at Buffalo, 8:15p.m. Off: Cleveland, Tennesse Carolina, Green Bay

TEAM GAME HIGHS, LOWS

MOST POINTS SCORED 54, New England vs. New York 10/24 48, Tampa Bay vs. Atlanta 9/19 47, L.A. Chargers vs. Cleveland 10/10 45, Tampa Bay vs. Miami 10/10 45, Indianapolis vs. New York 11/5 45, New England vs. Cleveland 11/14 45, Buffalo at New York 11/14
FEWEST POINTS 0. Atlanta vs. New England 11/19 0, Seattle at Green Bay 11/14 0, Houston at Buffalo 10/3

0. N.Y. Jets at Denver 9/26 0. Miami vs. Buffalo 9/19 MOST TOTAL YARDS 571, Minnesota at Carolina 10/17 567, Dallas at New England 10/17 558, Tampa Bay vs. Miami 10/10 551, New England vs. New York 10/24 533, L.A. Chargers vs. Pittsburgh 1½2 MOST RUSHING YARDS 270. Tennessee at New England 11/28 264, Indianapolis at Buffalo 1½1 260, Indianapolis vs. New York 11/5 MOST NET PASSING YARDS 452, Tampa Bay vs. Miami 10/10 445, Dallas at New England 10/17 442, Baltimore vs. Indianapolis 10/12

TIMES SACKED BY OPPONENT 9, Chicago at Cleveland 9/26 PASSES HAD INTERCEPTED 4, N.Y. Jets vs. New England 9/19 4, Houston at Buffalo 10/3 4. N.Y. Jets vs. Buffalo 11/14 4, Atlanta vs. New England 11/19 4, Tennessee vs. Houston 1½1 4, Baltimore vs. Cleveland 11/29 **TURNOVERS**

5, Houston at Buffalo 10/3 5. Chicago at Tampa Bay 10/24 5, Miami vs. Houston 11/7 5, N.Y. Jets vs. Buffalo 11/14 5. Tennessee vs. Houston 11/21 5, Indianapolis vs. Tampa Bay 11/28 FIRST DOWNS

36, Baltimore vs. Minnesota 11/7 TIME OF POSSESSION

18:35, Seattle at Washington 11/30 PRO BOWL VOTE LEADERS Event: Feb. 6 at Allegiant Stadium, Las

Vegas, Voting ends Dec. 16 with rosters to be announced Dec. 20.

TOP OVERALL VOTE-GETTERS	
Jonathan Taylor, RB, Indpls	126,381
Travis Kelce, TE, Kanssa City	121,807
Cooper Kupp, WR, LA Rams	120,010
Myles Garrett, DE, Cleveland	113,980
Tom Brady, QB, Tampa Bay	111,716
VOTING LEADERS BY ROSITION	
VOTING LEADERS BY POSITION	4
POS CON OFFENSE	VOTES
QB AFC Josh Allen, Buf	84,470
OB NFC Tom Brady, TB	111.716

VOT	ING L	EADERS BY POSITION	
POS	CON	OFFENSE	VOTES
QB	AFC	Josh Allen, Buf	84,470
QB	NFC	Tom Brady, TB	111,716
RB	AFC	Jonathan Taylor, Ind	126,381
RB	NFC	Ezekel Elliott, Dal	72,953
FΒ	AFC	Patrick Ricard, Bal	66,486
FB	NFC	Kyle Juszczyk, SF	103,754
WR	AFC	Ja'Marr Chase, Cin	97,585
WR	NFC	Cooper Kupp, LAR	120,010
TE	AFC	Travis Kelce, KC	121,807
TE	NFC	Kyle Pitts, Atl	93,335
OT	AFC	Orlando Brown, KC	41,803
OT	NFC	Terron Armstead, NO	64,868
OG	AFC	Joel Bitonio, Cle	59,168
OG	NFC	Zack Martin, Dal	43,522
С	AFC	David Andrews, NE	59,687
С	NFC	Tyler Biadasz, Dal	43,415
PK	AFC	Justin Tucker, Bal	80,223
PK	NFC	Graham Gano, NYG	38,840
RS	AFC	Ray-Ray McCloud, Pit	44,738
RS	NFC	DeAndre Carter, Was	54,185
POS	CON	DEFENSE	VOTES

RS	AFC	Ray-Ray McCloud, Pit	44,738
RS	NFC	DeAndre Carter, Was	54,185
POS	CON	DEFENSE	VOTES
DE	AFC	Myles Garrett, Cle	113,980
DE	NFC	Nick Bosa, SF	103,684
DT	AFC	Jeffery Simmons, Ten	86,960
DT	NFC	Aaron Donald, LAR	102,767
OLB	AFC	T.J. Watt, Pit	111,384
OLB	NFC	Haason Redick, Car	61,570
ILB	AFC	Denzel Perryman, LV	54,859
ILB	NFC	Devin White, TB	78,315
CB	AFC	J.C. Jackson, NE	88,803
CB	NFC	Trevon Diggs, Dal	110,904
SS	AFC	Kareem Jackson, Den	63,573
SS		Harrison Smith, Min	62,499
FS	AFC	Kevin Byard, Ten	89,261
FS	NFC	Quandre Diggs, Sea	53,461
P		Cam Johnston, Hou	44,915
P		Michael Dickson, Sea	67,594
ST	AFC	Ola Adeniyi, Ten	44,887
ST		Nick Bellore, Sea	45,375
LS		Joe Cardona, NE	51,385
LS	NFC	Cam Cheeseman, Was	42,033
CEA	COL	LEADERS	
) SEA	חטכו	I LEAUEKS	

S NFC Car	n Che	esema	n, W	as	42,033
SEASON LE Pass yards			TD	INT	RATE
Derek Carr	LV	3414	17	9	97.3
om Brady	TB	3403	30	9	103.1
И. Stafford	LAR	3316	27	9	105.2
. Herbert	LAC	3230	24	10	96.5
P. Mahomes	KC	3200	25	11	94.7

RUSH YARDS	TM	YDS	ATT	TD
Jonathan Taylor	Ind	1205	209	14
Derrick Henry	Ten	937	219	10
Joe Mixon	Cin	924	208	11
Nick Chubb	Cle	867	150	6
Dalvin Cook	Min	773	171	4
Ezekiel Elliott	Dal	720	160	8
Antonio Gibson	Was	712	183	5
RECEIVING YDS	TM	YDS	REC	TD
Cooper Kupp	LAR	1237	92	10
Davante Adams	FB	1083	80	5
Justin Jefferson	Min	1027	67	6
Deebo Samuel	SF	1006	56	5
Tvreek Hill	KC	932	84	8

LAC 895 81

906

Ja'Marr Chase

Keenan Allen

D.J. Moore

PGA HERO WORLD CHALLANGE 1st of 4 rounds, Albany GC, New Providence, Bahamas, 7,302 vards; Par: 72

Daniel Berger Abraham Ancer Rory McIlroy Webb Simpson Justin Thomas Brooks Koepka Tony Finau Patrick Reed Viktor Hovland Collin Morikawa Tyrrell Hatton Bryson DeChambeau Xander Schauffele Matt Fitzpatrick Scottie Scheffler	31-35-66 35-31-66 35-31-66 35-32-67 31-36-67 32-35-67 36-32-68 36-32-68 34-34-68 33-36-69 35-35-70 35-36-71	-6 -6 -5 -5 -5 -4 -4 -4 -3 -3 -2 -1
		-
		_
Scottie Scheffler Sam Burns	35-36-71 36-35-71	-1 -1
Justin Rose	38-33-71	-1
Jordan Spieth Henrik Stenson	33-38-71 36-36-72	-1 E
Harris English	37-38-75	+3

PGA CHAMPIONS QUALIFYING 4th round, OC National-Panther Lake Winter Garden, Fla., 7,162 yds; Par: 72

Winter Garden, Fl	a.,	7,1	62	yds;	Par:	72
Jeff Gove	72.	-69.	-68	-69-	-278	-10
Mark Brown	72-	-70-	-69	-69-	-280	-8
John Riegger Ricardo Gonzalez	73-	-69	-72	-67-	-281	-7
Ricardo Gonzalez	70-	-70	-72	-69-	-281	-7
Jarmo Sandelin	12.	-12:	-12	-69-	-285	-3
Jay Jurecic	76-	-69	-72	-69-	-286	-2
Roderick Bastard	73-	-68	-75	-70-	-286	-2
Danny King	70-	-74	-70	-72-	-286	-2
Jody Bellflower	69.	-/5	-/3	-71-	-288	E
Dennis Hendersh Jesús Rivas				-73-1		38 E +2
Roger Rowland				-75-		+2
Skip Kendall	74.	.70.	-71	-75-	-290	+2
Chad Kurmel	74-	-73·	-67	-75- -76-	-290	+2
Frank Esposito	75-	-74	-69	-73-	-291	+3
José Coceres	76-	71	-70	-73- -74-	-291	+3
Ronaldo Francisco						+5
Neal Lancaster				-74-		+5
Troy Parker	75-	-72	-73	-74-	-294	+6
Michael Watson	71.	-69	-//	-77- -73- -75-	-294	+6
Tim Cantwell Cliff Kresge	74-	-/5·	-/3 71	-/3-	205	+7 +7
Doug Rohrbaugh				-75-		+7
Bobby Gage				-77-		+7
Brian Mogg	75.	·75·	.71	-75-	-296	+8
Amandeep Johl				-76-	-296	+8
Mike Grob	80-	71	-75	-71-	-297	+9
Álvaro Pinedo	75-	-75	-71	-76-	-297	+9
Micah Rudosky	75-	-75	-71	-76- -79-	-297	+9
Mike Stone	73.	-74	-72	-79-	-298	+10
Craig Vanhorn Rafael Barcellos	77.	-74·	-75 -70	-76- -76-	-299	+11
Tom Stankowski				-70- -77-		+12
Chris Sullivan	81.	.72·	-71	-77-	-301	+13
Britt Pavelonis	78-	-73	-74	-77- -76-	-301	+13
Tim Weinhart	74-	-78	-75	-74–	-301	+13
Todd Bailey	77-	-76	-74	-74-	-301	+13
Paul Parlane	79-	-76	-73	-73-	-301	+13
David Noto John O'Brien	76	-/0-	-// 72	-79- -74-	-302	+14 +14
Michel Dagenais				-74-		+14
Don Carpenter III						+16
Ted Tryba				-82-		+16
Ruben Gonzalez	79-	-74	-74	-77-	-304	+16
Richard Tinworth Kelly Berger John Smith	79-	-77	-74	-74-	-304	+16
Kelly Berger	74-	-77	-74	-80-	-305	+17
John Smith	75-	-78	-78	-74-	-305	+17
Jeff Williams				-78-		+19
Danny Gonzales David Plumb	79.	.Q1.	-13 -73	-75- -77-	-300	+19 +21
Cristian Caballero	ายา	-79	-70		-309	
Eric Egloff						+22
Perry Parker	79-	-78	-71	-84-	-312	+24
Mike Woodcock	78-	-78	-78	-79-	-313	+25
Scott Henderson	77-	-78	-79	-80-	-314	+26
John Connelly	76-	-80	-78	-80-	-314	+26
Hector Valdez	83.	-76	-81	-77-	-317	+29
Allen Abbott Tejal Patel				-83- -82-	-319	+31 +31
David Cauthen						+31
John Kelly	80.	.82	-82	-75- -81-	-325	+37
Kenny Bontz	86.	.82	-79	-82-	-329	+41
Greg Newberry	85.	-89	-78	-77-	-329	+41
Sath Nop	87-	-83	84	-77 -77 -77	-331	+43
Jeffrey Mason	78-	-88	-85	-84–	-335	+47
Chris. Moore					-341	+53
Perfecto Miartus	90-	92	95	-86-	-363	+75

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

MEN'S AP TOP 25 FARED No. 1 Duke (7-1) did not play. Next: vs. SC State, Tuesday, Dec. 14.
No. 2 Purdue (7-0) did not play. Next:

No. 3 Gonzaga (7-1) did not play. Next: vs. No. 16 Alabama, Saturday. No. 4 Baylor (7-0) did not play. Next: vs. Ark.-Pine Bluff, Saturday.

No. 5 UCLA (7-1) did not play. Next: at Washington, Sunday, No. 6 Villanova (5-2) did not play. Next: vs. Saint Joseph's, Saturday. No. 7 Texas (5-1) did not play. Next: vs. Texas Rio Grande Valley, Friday.

No. 8 Kansas (5-1) did not play. Next: at

No. 9 Kentucky (6-1) did not play. Next: vs. Southern U., Tuesday. No. 10 Arkansas (7-0) did not play. Next: vs. Ark. Little Rock, Saturday.
No. 11 Arizona (6-0) vs. Washington, ppd. Next: at Oregon State, Sunday. No. 12 BYU (6-1) did not play. Next: at Missouri St., Saturday. No. 13 Tennessee (5-1) did not play. Next: at Colorado. Saturda No. 14 Florida (6-1) did not play. Next: vs. Texas Southern, Monday No. 15 Houston (6-1) did not play. Next: vs. Bryant, Friday.
No. 16 Alabama (6-1) did not play. Next: vs. No. 3 Gonzaga, Saturday. No. 17 UConn (7-1) did not play. Next: vs. Grambling St., Saturday

No. 18 Memphis (5-2) did not play. Next: at Mississippi, Saturday. No. 19 Iowa State (7-0) did not play. Next: at Creighton, Saturday.
No. 20 Southern Cal (7-0) did not play. Next: at Washington St., Saturday No. 21 Auburn (6-1) did not play. Next: vs. Yale, Saturday. No. 22 Michigan State (6-2) did not play. Next: vs. Toledo, Saturday. No. 23 Wisconsin (6-1) did not play. Next: vs. Marquette, Saturday No. 24 Michigan (4-3) did not play. Next: vs. San Diego State, Saturday. No. 25 Seton Hall (6-1) did not play.

Next: vs. Nyack, Saturday

WOMEN'S AP TOP 25 FARED No. 1 South Carolina (8-0) did not play. Next: vs. Kansas St., Friday. No. 2 UConn (3-1) did not play. Next: vs. Seton Hall, Friday.

No. 2 NC State (7-1) beat No. 6 Indiana 66-58. Next: vs. Elon, Sunday. No. 4 Stanford (5-2) did not play. Next: vs. Pacific. Sunday. Dec 12. No. 5 Baylor (7-1) did not play. Next: vs. Missouri, Saturday.

No. 6 Indiana (5-2) lost to No. 2 NC St. 66-58. Next: . vs. Penn State, Monday. No. 7 Arizona (7-0) did not play. Next: at UC Riverside, Friday No. 8 Maryland (6-2) vs. Miami. Next: at Rutgers, Sunday.. No. 9 Iowa (4-0) at Duke. Next: vs. Michigan State, Sunday.

No. 10 Louisville (6-1) beat No. 12 Mich-

igan 70-48. Next: vs. Belmont, Sunday. No. 11 Tennessee (7-0) did not play. Next: at Virginia Tech, Sunday. No. 12 Michigan (7-1) lost to No. 10 Louisville 70-48. Next: vs. Akron, Sun. No. 13 South Florida (5-3) lost to UT Arlington 61-56. Next: at VCU. Sunday No. 14 lowa State (7-0) at LSU. Next: vs. Longweood, Sunday. No. 15 Texas (5-1) did not play. Next: at No. 16 Kentucky (5-1) did not play. Next: vs. Merrimack, Sunday

No. 17 Texas A&M (8-0) did not play. Next: vs. No. 15 Texas, Sunday. No. 18 Ohio State (5-1) did not play. Next: at Purdue, Sunday. No. 18 Oregon (3-3) did not play. Next: at Portland, Saturday, No. 20 Georgia (7-0) beatTexas Tech 66-56. Next: vs. Georgia Tech, Sunday. No. 21 BYU (7-0) did not play. Next: at

No. 22 Florida Gulf Coast (7-1) did not play. Next: vs. Palm Beach Atlantic, Thursday, Dec. 9. No. 23 Oregon St. (4-2) did not play. Next: at Monmouth, Friday, Dec. 10. No. 24 Notre Dame (7-1) beat Michigan St. 76-71. Next: at No. 2 UConn, Sunday. No. 25 Florida State (4-2) at Illinois. Next: vs. Chas. Southern, Sunday.



MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred speaks during a news conference Thursday after owners locked out players following the expiration of the sport's CBA. LM OTERO/AP

BASEBALL

Long lockout looks possible

By Stephen Hawkins and Ronald Blum Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas -Hours into Major League Baseball's first work stoppage in 26 years, Commissioner Rob Manfred and union head Tony Clark presented diametrically opposed views of each side's positions that point to a lengthy lockout.

In separate news conferences less than half a day into baseball's ninth work stoppage, Manfred said the union's proposal for greater free agency and wider salary arbitration would damage small-market teams.

Clark, the first former player to head the union, accused Manfred of "misrepresentations" in his letter to fans explaining the lockout, and said "it would have been beneficial to the process to have spent as much time negotiating in the room as it appeared it was spent on the letter."

"It's unnecessary to continue the dialogue," Clark said of the lockout. "At the first instance in some time of a bumpy water, the recourse was a strategic decision to lock players out."

In many ways, after 26 ½ years of labor peace the sides have reverted to the bitter squabbling that marked eight work stoppages from 1972-95, including a 7 ½-month strike that wiped out the 1994 World Series.

Owners locked out players at 12:01 a.m. Thursday following the expiration of the sport's five-year collective bargaining agreement.

"If you play without an agreement, you are vulnerable to a strike at any point in time," Manfred said. "... We wanted to take that option away and try to force the parties to deal with the issues and get an agreement now."

Players gained salary arbitration in 1974 and free agency two years later, and most of the previous disputes centered on the rise of big salaries caused by both, along with demands, mostly by small- and middle-market owners, to control costs and increase their competitive ability.

Management gained an ever-increasing series of restraints over the last two decades, such as a luxury tax on high payrolls, leading to a decrease in average salary during the latter years of the most recent labor deal.

Now players want more liberalized free agency and arbitration, leading to a confrontation.

'It's a whole list of topics that they've told us they will not negotiate," said Bruce Meyer, the players' chief lawyer.

Since 1976, players can become free agents after six seasons of major league service. The players' association proposed starting with the 2023-24 offseason that it changes to six years or five years and age 30.5, with the age in the second option dropping to 29.5 starting in 2025-26.

Players want arbitration eligibility to decrease to two years of service, its level until the mid-1980s.

Central to the strife is the union's anger over a larger number of teams in recent seasons jettisoning veterans in favor of rebuilding while accumulating prospects. Teams sometimes conclude rebuilding — the players call it tanking — is a preferred strategy for longterm success, even though it can rankle their fans.

An agreement by earlyto-mid-March is needed for a full season.

IN BRIEF

LeBron OK to play after negative tests

News services

LeBron James has been cleared to return to the Lakers after missing one game under the NBA's health and safety proto-

The league said Thursday that James isn't positive for COVID-19 despite a series of tests that produced conflicting results earlier this week. Additional testing cleared James to play when the Lakers host the Clippers on Friday night.

James got an initial positive test from a sample collected Monday. The sample was retested twice, producing one positive and one negative. James underwent additional testing Tuesday, but those returned one negative result and one inconclusive result. He subsequently had two negative PCR tests conducted more than 24 hours apart, meeting the criteria necessary to return

to play. James, 36, has said he's vaccinated.

■ Zion Williamson's season debut with the Pelicans will be delayed because of soreness in his surgically repaired right foot, the team announced. The All-Star big man and former No. 1 pick was supposed to participate in his first full practice but was held out due to soreness. He will to back to low-impact work for a few days. The Pelicans are optimistic it won't be a long-term issue. ... Bucks C Brook Lopez underwent surgery to address the back injury that has kept him from playing since the season opener. There's no timetable yet for his return.

College football: Virginia coach Bronco Mendenhall announced that he will resign after the team's upcoming bowl game. Mendenhall, 55, went 36-38 in six seasons with the Cavaliers.

NFL: The league suspended Bucs WR Antonio Brown, S Mike Edwards and ex-WR John Franklin III three games for using fake COVID-19 vaccination cards. Brown wasn't expected to play in the next two games because of an injury that has kept him out since Week 7.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL Friday: at Seton Hall, 7 p.m.,

MEN'S BASKETBALL Saturday: vs. Grambling, 4 p.m., FS2

ICONN



No. 2 UConn women at Seton Hall

By Alexa Philippou Hartford Courant

After a nearly two-week stretch without any games, the No. 2 UConn women's basketball team (3-1) is back in action Friday when the Huskies take on Seton Hall in their Big East opener, marking their first of four games in four different arenas in nine days. The Huskies will be without freshman Azzi Fudd, who will miss at least two weeks with a nagging foot injury, as well as junior Aubrey Griffin, who was ruled out Thursday by the Huskies' athletic trainer. Coach Geno Auriemma initially said she'd be good to go for the weekend before a setback at practice, he told Bob Joyce on the UConn Coaches' Show. The Pirates, meanwhile, are 3-2 on the season, with wins over Mount St. Mary's (81-68), Lehigh (87-77) and Toledo (68-63, OT) and losses to Fordham (82-63) and USC (79-65). Seton Hall was picked to finish third in the Big East behind UConn and DePaul. Here's what else you need to know about the matchup:

Site: Walsh Gymnasium Time: 7 p.m.

Series: UConn leads, 53-10 Last meeting: No. 2 UConn 70, Seton Hall 49, Feb. 10, 2021, in Storrs. TV: SNY (Meghan Culmo, Allen

Bestwick, Maria Marino) Stream: In-market SNY viewers with access to the network can watch via the NBC Sports app: http://stream. nbcsports.com/rsn/sny.Out-ofmarket viewers can watch on the Fox Sports App or at https://www. foxsports.com/ as well as on the FOX Now app or at www.fox.com/sports. The games might not appear on those sites until right around tipoff. Radio: UConn IMG Sports Network on

starters, sixth man:

UConn probable

Christyn Williams, G, 5-11, Sr.; Olivia

Westbrook, G, 6-0, R-Sr.; Paige Bueckers, G, 5-11, So.; Aaliyah Edwards, F, 6-3, So.; Nika Mühl, G, 5-10, So.

The matchup

UConn's offense: Bueckers, Williams and Westbrook have accounted for two-thirds of UConn's scoring this season. Fudd has the next-highest point total with 30, including 18 in one game. Without her, the Huskies will ask for more from Mühl and freshman Caroline Ducharme.

UConn's defense: UConn's 66 points allowed per game isn't stellar, but its defense looked better in the South Carolina game than it did early on against Arkansas. Defense (and rebounding) can also help UConn get going in transition, which Auriemma wants to see his team do even more of. Seton Hall's offense: Similar to last season, Park-Lane and Espinoza-Hunter lead the team with 19 and 18.2 points per game, respectively, while Cooks chips in 15.3 on average. The Pirates are averaging 72.8 points per game on 40.7% shooting (36.3% on 3s). Last season, Park-Lane caused all sorts of problems and dropped 29 on UConn in the second meeting of the

Seton Hall's defense: Seton Hall has been outscored by just a point on average this season, allowing 73.8

points per game on 43.3% shooting (but just 27.6% on 3s). The Pirates also struggle on the boards, collecting just 46.5% of misses off the glass per Her Hoop Stats.

UConn keys: Don't let Park-Lane get going or let the Pirates get hot from the 3-point line. Transition defense. Exploit size advantage in lane. Get going in transition.

Players to watch: Edwards had her breakout game last season against Seton Hall, so Friday would be perfect timing for her to come out with a strong outing after a somewhat disappointing start to her sophomore season.

About Seton Hall's coach: In his ninth season in South Orange. Anthony Bozzella has led the Pirates to a 150-101 record. The Hall had back-to-back NCAA Tournament appearances in 2015 and 2016: last season, amid much COVID-19 disruption, the Pirates were one of the first teams out from making the NCAA Tournament and ultimately declined a WNIT bid.

Seton Hall's mascot: The Pirate. Famous alumni: Basketball analyst and former coach Bill Raftery, NBA executive Art ras Karnišovas, former baseball player Rick Cerone

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Reid from Page 1

of that."

Reid was a tireless recruiter, finding talent in seemingly every corner of the world, and a tireless fundraiser, as evidenced by the soccer program's rebuilt Morrone Stadium and sprawling Rizza Performance Center, part of a complex used by several programs.

"I'm sad to see Ray leave the program," said Tony Rizza, a former UConn soccer player who donated \$8 million toward the building of the facilities. "He's been a tremendous asset for UConn soccer from the day he took over from Coach Morrone to now. He was totally in charge of creating the idea for the stadium and facility, and beyond that, the human element of Ray, he didn't just take from the program, he gave back to it in the form of donations and all the effort he put into building the alumni network. Just a tremendous guy."

Reid listed his four top coaching memories at UConn.

"No. 1 is winning the national championship in 2000," he said. "Then the overtime goal against New Mexico in 2012, we were down in the Round of 16 game and we won it sudden death, a great goal from Carlos Alvarez to Nick

Zuniga. No. 3 when we beat UCLA in 2013, they were the No. 1 seed, a great win, we were down 2-0 10 minutes in. The fourth thing was seeing all my guys who graduated and went on to play at the next level or coach at the next level and give back to the game."

In 2020, Reid launched the Reid Family Fund, which provides scholarships for aspiring minority coaches to attend the United Soccer Coaches' education course or annual convention. Reid planted the seed with a \$25,000 gift and a \$75,000 estate gift.

"He's a man of his word," Rizza said. "He's a straight shooter. He says what he's going to do, and he does it."

Reid didn't offer any suggestions regarding UConn's upcoming coaching search but has some thoughts on the kind of coach it takes to succeed in Storrs.

"They've got to get a guy with a high work ethic," he said. "If you look at the coaches that have been successful at UConn. Jim Calhoun, Geno Auriemma, Randy Edsall, Jimmy Penders, Joe Morrone, just to name a few, they were grinders. There was no silver spoon in their mouth. They worked and worked and worked, now Danny Hurley. UConn is a place for grinders."

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Wesleyan

from Page 1

Last year, they did not play due to COVID-19. They were allowed to practice with coaches in the spring, something the NESCAC does not normally allow.

"It was challenging," Meredith said. "But this past spring, we got to actually develop some players, having more time and no competition. During the season, it's prepping for the next game and individual player development takes a back seat. I think we came a long ways in the spring.

That had something to do with it. I think we also had a really talented group that is all coming together."

The Cardinals beat Keene State 7-0 in their first game on Sept. 8. Their only loss came to No. 20 Amherst, 1-0, on Oct. 9. In the first round of the NESCAC tournament, Weslevan beat Bowdoin 2-1. It was their first NESCAC tournament win since 2012.

The NESCAC final was recorded as a 1-1 tie, but penalty kicks were allowed to determine the league champion. Middlebury won its second title in three seasons on penalty kicks, 3-2.

"We hadn't lost a game in a while, we hadn't gone to overtime in a while," Meehan said. "We hadn't gone to penalty kicks ever, so it was a time to notice what we could work on. We all came out of that game like, We never want to lose like that again."

Meehan has missed just one game in her four-year career, entering the final four weekend as Wesleyan's all-time leader in games played (67). She originally decided not to play soccer in college and went to the University of Virginia. By the middle of her freshman year, she realized she missed it and started to look into transferring to one of the NESCAC schools. Wesleyan hadn't seen her play but gave her a chance.

"I'm super appreciative," she said. "The team was in a rebuilding transition. They were willing to take a chance on me."

They won one conference game her first year, in 2017, and went 6-8-1. They've been improving ever since.

"Since then, we've been in an uphill trajectory," Meehan said. "This is our first NCAA tournament so it wasn't expected by any means to do this well and make it to the final four."

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The Weslevan women's soccer team celebrates after a win over Bowdoin in the NESCAC tournament quarterfinals. **WESLEYAN ATHLETICS**

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Seton Hall probable

97.9 ESPN (Bob Joyce, Debbie Fiske)

Lauren Park-Lane, G, 5-6, Jr.; Mya Jackson, G, 5-7, Jr.; Andra Espinoza-Hunter, G/F, 5-11, Gr.; Sidney Cooks, F, 6-4, R-Sr.; Katie Armstrong, G/F, 6-2, Gr.; Mya Bembry, F, 6-1, Jr.

starters, sixth man:

Nelson-Ododa, F, 6-5, Sr.; Evina

South Carolina forward Victaria Saxton (5) defends against UConn guard Paige Bueckers during a game at Paradise Island, Bahamas, on Nov. 22, TIMAYLEN / AP

UConn

from Page 1

has picked up tremendously," Westbrook said. "Just the overall energy, the intensity – you can feel it and it kind of just runs through us."

"I think we're starting to play with a lot more aggression," Bueckers said. "We're starting to play more physical, just competing more. ... We're all nice girls off the court, so we're trying to change that on the court."

More often than not this season, the Huskies will be in situations where they'll be comfortable on the floor, whether that means the team is up by 20-plus points or individuals are in their own grooves.

That won't happen as much against the South Carolinas of the world. Being uncomfortable and fighting through that adversity is what Auriemma wants his team to embrace.

"To be uncomfortable, to get out of their comfort zone, [where] you can't do what you want," Auriemma said. "You can't go where you want it. You can't get a shot to fall. You can't get open. The other team just got four buckets in a row and now you're very, very uncomfortable.

'So how do you play really well when you're extremely uncomfortable? To me, that's the crux."

Ideally, UConn's big three of Bueck-

ers, Westbrook and Christyn Williams can get some help if UConn's bench becomes more reliable, giving them a few more minutes of rest. And with greater mental focus comes better basketball execution on both

Still. Bueckers sees herself as someone who must re-center the team when things aren't going well, marking the next step in her basketball

"I think when things start to go bad. somebody has to turn things around, and that person has to be me," Bueckers said. "I have to call a huddle, whether it be in a timeout [or] on a dead ball. I have to get everybody together and be like, 'We need to turn around. We can't just keep continuing with the bad plays, just mess-ups after mess-ups."

Games may be the most telling way to see how players withstand adversity, but the breeding ground for good habits starts in practice.

"It's just trying to make the odds against us, trying to make sure that we don't break and fold," Bueckers said. "I think that they've done everything that they can to make every-thing extremely hard and see how we respond."

The coaches getting on us, Coach [Auriemma] especially, I think a lot more people have been able to embrace it and just taking what he says and 'OK I heard it. I got to learn from it, now I gotta move on," Westbrook said. "[They're] not trying to dwell on, 'Oh, he's on me, he's on me.' No, he's [on] everybody."

Practice players have been instructed to deny and pressure more, and Auriemma will put players in more competitive settings against

each other. Westbrook said the intensity level sometimes would die down the last 30 minutes of practice, and that's what happened in the final quarter against South Carolina. Avoiding that energy letdown has been a focus over the last

"It has to be consistent," Westbook said. "We can't just do it when we

UConn will get plenty more chances to test its mental fortitude against the likes of Louisville, Oregon, Tennessee and South Carolina again before the ultimate tests come during March Madness.

"We need to be fighters, we need to be warriors, and we're not gonna back down anybody," Bueckers said. "The more they test us in practice, the more we're going to be better in those situations. So I think we've learned a lot as a team and as individuals, and we're looking forward from that game."

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injured for more than 60 years

Safety Tip of the Day

Got ice on your walkways? Mix ice melt with sand. It helps reduce the amount of ice melt you use and provides extra traction.

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NATIONAL SPORTS REPORT

SHORTS

Special job for Browns chief of staff



Callie Brownson will exchange her brown and orange gear this summer for some red, white and blue - and chase another gold medal. The Browns' chief of staff, and one of a handful of current female assistant coaches in the NFL, will coach the U.S. Women's Tackle National Team this summer at the

world championships in Finland. It's a dream job for the 32-year-old Brownson, above, who won two gold medals while playing on the U.S. team. "It means a lot to me," she said Thursday. "The moments that I had being a player for this national team are so special to me. You can't say enough about playing the sport that you love while playing internationally and representing your country." Her selection by USA football follows her arrest in May for operating a vehicle under the influence. She's grateful for the support she received from the Browns. Brownson is in her second season with the Browns. Coach Kevin Stefanski hired her shortly after he got the job in Cleveland, and he credited her with helping him navigate through a tricky first season due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

McIlroy starts strong in Bahamas



Rory McIlroy has gone from tears at the Ryder Cup to some of his best golf of the year, and right now his only complaint is the calendar. "I wish it was the end of March," McIlroy said Thursday after a 6-under 66 to share a one-shot lead with Daniel Berger and Abraham Ancer in the Hero World Challenge. McIlroy

was referring to the Masters, the only major keeping him from the career Grand Slam, and there's plenty of golf to be played between now and the first full week of April. But he's been on a roll since spilling his emotions about how much the Ryder Cup means after a rough week at Whistling Straits. He won the CJ Cup in Las Vegas. He was leading the DP World Tour Championship in Dubai after 68 holes until a bad break led to a sloppy finish and Collin Morikawa passed him by. And then on a warm and blustery day in the Bahamas, he had six birdies and chipped in for eagle for another good start. "I wish it was a different time of the year the way I'm playing," McIlroy said. "... I'm not going to completely shut the clubs away. ... My game's in good shape and I want to keep it there."

Nebraska QB Martinez to transfer



Nebraska quarterback Adrian Martinez announced Thursday that he will enter the transfer portal, another blow for the struggling Cornhuskers. The threetime captain completed his best season in 2021, completing 61.8% of his throws for 2,863 yards with 14 touchdowns and

10 interceptions for a career-best rating of 149.0. He played in 39 games during his four-year career, going 14-25 while winning just eight Big Ten games. He didn't play in last week's season-ending loss to Iowa after having surgery on his right shoulder. Martinez could play two more seasons because the NCAA granted players an extra year of eligibility during last year's shortened COVID-19 season. He was the program's first major addition following coach Scott Frost's hiring. Martinez's career was filled with close losses, big disappointments and injuries. But he also finished his career as Nebraska's all-time leader with 10,792 total yards, 370 completions, 19 games with 300 yards passing and five 400-yard games and the single-season record-holder in total yards per game with 308.0 in 2021. -Associated Press



Concern over Chinese player Peng Shuai's safety led the WTA to halt next year's scheduled events in China. GETTY-AFP FILE

COMMENTARY

'Right side of history'

WTA shows real courage in stance against China

By Paul Newberry Associated Press

If Thomas Bach or Adam Silver need some pointers on standing up for human rights instead of the bottom line, they should give a call to Steve Simon over at the women's tennis tour.

Finally, someone picked right over the almighty yuan.

Treading courageously into territory that Bach's International Olympic Committee and Silver's NBA steadfastly avoided — not to mention other sports organizations and countless corporate giants — the WTA suspended its tournaments in China because of concern for Grand Slam doubles champion Peng Shuai.

Simon, the WTA's president and CEO, is all alone on Backbone Island, taking a stance that will undoubtedly deliver a huge financial blow to an organization that had been a major player in the lucrative Chinese market.

Don't expect anyone else to follow. Simon conceded as much, stressing that he wasn't trying to influence the decisions made by other sports or governing bodies.

But his organization had to take a stand, he said, after Peng accused a former top Communist Party official of sexual assault.

'I'm not looking to send a message to any other sport bodies or influence their decisions or evaluate their decisions," Simon said. "I think it goes beyond that, into obviously something very, very sensitive on a worldwide basis for women, in general. So, as the leading women's sports organization, and having a direct effect on this, we're focused on that."

Peng's well-being has been a source of worldwide concern for the last month, with current and former players calling on the Chinese authorities to let her speak freely.

Her sexual assault allegations were quickly redacted from Chinese social media and she dropped out of public view, other than making a few carefully orchestrated appearances that appear to be nothing more than propaganda staged by an authoritarian regime.

With the Winter Olympics set to open in Beijing in two months, the IOC was best positioned to take on the Chinese.

But Bach wasn't about to mess with his billion-dollar boondoggle, so he's gladly played along with a pair of government-arranged video calls to Peng that were supposed to assuage the international outcry but instead make her sound more like a hostage.

Longtime IOC member Dick Pound weighed in as well, though he might as well have been auditioning to become a Chinese government spokesman when he said everyone in the organization believes Peng is "fine."

"These are people who have dealt with athletes and dealt with pressure," Pound told CNN in an interview. "They can tell whether somebody is behaving under duress or not.

"Their unanimous conclusion was that she was fine. And she just asked that her privacy be respected for the time being.'

Of course, Bach and the IOC are merely mimicking the blueprint laid out by the NBA, which faced a backlash from China — its biggest foreign market – after former Rockets general manager Daryl Morey sent out a tweet in 2019 supporting anti-government protesters in Hong Kong.

A leader in the fight for social justice in America, the NBA treaded far more

cautiously with the Chinese. The league called the uproar over Morey's tweet "regrettable" and spent the last two years trying to patch up a financial hit that Silver estimated at

hundreds of million of dollars. The WTA doesn't have nearly the financial clout of the IOC or the

NBA, but it still chose to confront the Chinese over Peng's whereabouts.

The governing body says it will not back down until it gets to speak with Peng directly and the government agrees to a full and impartial investigation of her assault allegations.

That stance is one of the bravest in sports history, right up there with Muhammad Ali refusing induction during the Vietnam War, Tommie Smith and John Carlos raising a fist at the 1968 Summer Olympics, and Colin Kaeppernick taking a knee for social justice.

"The WTA is on the right side of history in supporting our players," tennis pioneer Billie Jean King wrote on Twitter. "This is another reason why women's tennis is the leader in women's sports."

Simon was quick to point out this wasn't one person's decision. He said he had the full backing of the WTA board, players, tournaments and sponsors in a decision that could extend beyond 2022.

This is no small gesture, for sure. The WTA holds about 10 tournaments annually in China, including the season-ending Tour Finals, which are scheduled to be staged there for a

decade. "I don't know how to give you a number of what the actual effect will be, but it will be millions of dollars, for sure," Simon said. "And it's something that we're going to have to manage and work our way through. But I'm confident we'll find a way to manage and work our way through it."

Sadly, no one else is willing to follow not even in the world of tennis.

The International Tennis Federation, which oversees Grand Slam tournaments and other events globally, and the CEO of the men's ATP Tour both issued statements Thursday.

Neither made any mention of China or the WTA suspension.

The right side of history can be a lonely place.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL GAMES TO WATCH

One last chance to state case for CFP

By Matt Murschel | Orlando Sentinel

PAC-12 CHAMPIONSHIP



No. 10 Oregon (10-2) vs. No. 17 Utah (9-3)

8 p.m. Friday in Las Vegas, ABC

This is a rematch of their Nov. 20 meeting in which host Utah won 38-7. In that loss, the Utes held Oregon to seasonlows in scoring (seven points), rushing offense (63 yards) and total offense (294 yards). Utah has made it to the championship game three times since joining the Pac-12 in 2011, with the Utes searching for their first title. The Ducks are hoping to make it three straight Pac-12 titles under coach Mario Cristobal and 14 overall in school history.

BIG 12 CHAMPIONSHIP



No. 9 Baylor (10-2) vs. No. 5 Oklahoma St. (11-1)

Noon Saturday in Arlington, Texas, ABC Baylor is making its second appearance in the conference championship game, with the Bears hoping to earn their first Big 12 title since 2014. Oklahoma State is making its first appearance in the title game, with the Cowboys searching for their first title since 2011. These two teams previously met on Oct. 2, a 24-14 win by Oklahoma State. The winner of this one remains in the hunt for a spot in the College Football Playoff semifinals.

SEC CHAMPIONSHIP



No. 1 Georgia (12-0) vs. No. 3 Alabama (11-1)

4 p.m. Saturday in Atlanta, CBS

Top-ranked Georgia is making its first appearance in the SEC championship since 2017, with the Bulldogs hoping to claim their 14th league title. For Alabama, this is their third conference championship game in the last four seasons. The big challenge for the Crimsion Tide is Georgia's defense. which allows just 6.9 points and 229 yards per game.

AMERICAN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP



| No. 21 Houston (11-1) at No. 4 Cincinnati (12-0)

4 p.m. Saturday in Cincinnati, ABC

The Bearcats hope to become the first team from a Group of Five conference to qualify for the College Football Playoff. To do so, Cincinnati would need to knock off Houston and claim its second straight AAC championship. These two teams feature the top scoring offenses and defenses in the conference. Cincinnati is scoring 39.9 points while holding teams to 15.8 points per game. Houston, meanwhile, is scoring 38.8 points while holding teams to 19.8 points per game.

BIG TEN CHAMPIONSHIP



| No. 2 Michigan (11-1) vs. No. 13 Iowa (10-2)

8 p.m. Saturday in Indianapolis, FOX Now that Michigan has snapped its eight-game losing streak to rival Ohio State, the next challenge for the Wolverines is winning their first outright Big Ten title since 2003. Doing so would also mean moving one step closer to a spot in the CFP semifinals. Iowa, meanwhile, hasn't won a conference title since 2004. These are two of the stingiest defenses in the Big Ten, allowing fewer than 18 points per game. The Hawkeyes lead the country in interceptions (22) and are third overall in takeaways (28).

ACC CHAMPIONSHIP



No. 15 Pittsburgh (10-2) vs. **No. 16 Wake Forest (10-2)**

8 p.m. Saturday in Charlotte, N.C., ABC This is the first time in its 17-year history that the ACC championship game features two teams averaging more than 40 points per game: Wake Forest (42.9) and Pittsburgh (42.8). Pitt's Kenny Pickett and Virginia's Bryce Armstrong are the first quarterbacks in the ACC to pass for 4,000 yards in a season since Clemson's Deshaun Watson in 2016. Wake quarterback Sam Hartman is capping off a career season, one in which he's passed for 3,711 yards with 34 touchdowns.

Number to know

0: Since its advent in the 2014 season, the College Football Playoff committee hasn't selected a two-loss team to participate. But this year's Alabama squad may be able to shake those odds, according to ESPN's Football Power Index. A close loss to No.1 Georgia in the SEC title game would give them a 58.7 percent chance of making the semifinals.

WEATHER



Partly sunny, very breezy and much cooler. Northwest wind at 10 to 20 mph.

LOW 26

Partly sunny, chance for a brief rain or snow shower.

SATURDAY

SUNDAY Partly sunny and

LOW

33

MONDAY Mostly cloudy,

62 windy and much milder, chance for a few showers. LOW

30

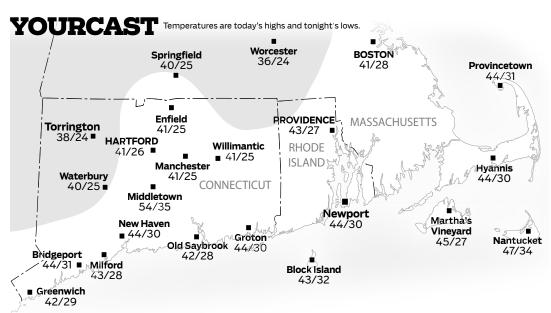
Partly sunny, breezy and colder. 39

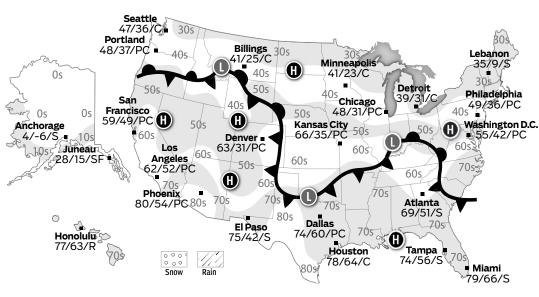
27°

TUESDAY

G G G







OUTLOOK

High pressure over the central Appalachians will ridge into the region bringing partly sunny skies Friday morning and then mostly sunny conditions in the afternoon. It will be a very breezy day with northwest winds at 10 to 20 mph and peak gusts between 25 to 35 mph. Temperatures will be much cooler with highs in the upper 30s to the mid-40s. It will be partly sunny on Saturday with the chance for a light rain or snow shower. A major, but brief warming is expected ahead of a cold front on Monday, then back to below normal temperatures on Tuesday.

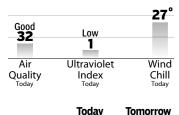
-Gary Lessor

ALMANAC

Precipitation In Inches Total Normal Yesterday (by 7 p.m.) 0.03 0.13 0.03 0.27 Month to date Total this year 52.02 43.24 Snowfall In Inches Yesterday (by 4 p.m.) 0.0

Total this year Trace 2.5 Precipitation, temperature at Windsor Locks

Air Quality Forecast For Today



	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise	7:00 a.m.	7:01 a.m.
Sunset	4:21 p.m.	4:20 p.m.
Moonrise	6:05 a.m.	7:27 a.m.
Moonset	3:50 p.m.	4:37 p.m.

Moon Phase								
New Dec 4	First Dec 10	Full Dec 18	Last Dec 26					

0.8					
0.6					
0.4		+++		++++	
0.2				+++++	
0.0	11/14	11/	21 1	1/28	
Tides	Hig	ţh	Low Tem		
N.L. State Pier	7:52 a.m.		1:50 a.m.	49°	
	8:17	p.m.	2:44 p.m.		
Savbrook Jetty	9:03	a.m.	2:43 a.m.	49°	

30-day Precipitation History In Inches

Sayb 9:28 p.m. 3:37 p.m. **Connecticut River** 11:46 a.m. 6:29 a.m. at Portland p.m. 7:23 p.m. 9:23 a.m. 3:04 a.m. Madison 9:57 p.m. 3:47 p.m. 9:43 a.m. **New Haven** 3:28 a.m. 48 10:17 p.m. 4:11 p.m. Stamford 9:47 a.m. 3:42 a.m. 10:21 p.m. 4:25 p.m.

River Stage at Hartford: 3.94 feet at 7:00 p.m.

Doaung	L.I. 500110 W	L.I. 300110 E	D. I. 300110
Weather	PCloudy	PCloudy	PCloudy
Wind	NW, 15-20	NW, 15-25	NW, 20-25
Seas	2-4 ft.	2-4 ft.	4-7 ft.

ici i ipci atoi c	i iigii	LOW
Thursday	58 at 12:44 p.m	32 at 1:24 a.m
Normal for date	45	28
Record for date	64 in 1970	7 in 1989
A year ago	44	33
Range this year	99	1

AROUND THE WORLD Today's forecast in cities not included in the maps above:

NEW ENGL	ANI)								
Bangor	33	8 PC	Baltimore	51 34 C	Nashville	69 53 S	San Juan	87 76 PC	Budapest	42 22 PC
Burlington		14 PC	Bismarck	40 15 PC	New Orleans	74 56 PC	Tucson	77 46 S	Buenos Aires	81 66 PC
Caribou		8 PC	Boise	48 33 PC	New York	46 35 PC	WORLD		Cairo	72 55 PC
Concord		11 S	Buffalo	38 30 C	Okla. City	78 48 PC	WORLD		Cancun	81 69 SH
Montpelier		9 PC	Charleston	76 50 S	Omaha	59 26 S	Amsterdam	43 36 R	Dubai	84 70 PC
Mt. Wash.		-4 PC	Cincinnati	56 41 S	Orlando	75 51 S	Athens	68 50 SH	Dublin	45 34 SH
Portland	-	14 S	Cleveland	39 32 C	Pittsburgh	41 30 C	Bangkok	82 68 PC	Edinburgh	45 38 PC
Woods Hole		26 S	Indianapolis	56 37 PC	Raleigh	70 48 S	Barbados	86 74 PC	Helsinki	25 10 C
Woods Hole	73	20 3	Jacksonville	75 48 S	St. Louis	71 42 PC	Beijing	54 30 S	Hong Kong	70 61 S
NATION			Las Vegas	71 46 S	Salt Lake City	54 37 PC	Beirut	72 59 PC	Istanbul	63 57 C
Albany	38	24 PC	Miami Beach	77 70 PC	San Antonio	78 62 PC	Berlin	37 34 C	Jerusalem	59 48 PC
Albuquerque		36 S	Milwaukee	41 28 SH	San Diego	65 55 PC	Bermuda	74 65 SH	Johannesburg	77 64 T
Atlantic City		30 PC	KEY: S Sunny,	C Cloudy, P	C Partly Cloudy	, R Rain, S	H Showers, SN	Snow, SF S	now Flurries, T	T-storms

Moscow Nassau New Delhi Paris Prague Rome Seoul Singapore

90 73 PC Stockholm 24 17 PC 61 50 S Svdnev 82 63 PC 50 43 73 50 PC 50 37 63 43 C 72 48 S Toronto 37 27 SF 48 30 C Vancouver 30 10 PC Warsaw 36 30 S Weather page produced by 34 28 SN 84 68 PC 73 55 PC WESTERN 52 39 R CONNECTICUT 36 28 PC 77 66 SH UNIVERSITY 55 37 C

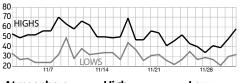
Weather Center

Last

High

Heating Degree Days Season Normal Season For July 1 - Dec 2 1034 1023 1222

30-day Temperature History



Atmosphere High Low 30.09 at 12 a.m. Barometer 29.52 at 7 p.m. Dew point 47° at 11 a.m. 23° at 4 p.m.

CIAC STATE TOURNAMENTS

FOOTBALL Class **LL**—Semifinals

Class L-Semifinals

No. 5Shelton (9-2) vs. No. 1Fairfield Prep (10-1) at Fairfield University, No. 3Darien (10-1) at No. 2New Canaan

No. 5Windsor (10-1) at No. 1St. Joseph (10-1), 11:30p.m. No. 7Masuk (9-2) vs. No. 3Maloney

(10-1) at Falcon Field, Meriden, 12:30

Class M-Semifinals No. 5Branford (9-2) at No. 1Killingly (10-0), 12:30p.m.

No. 6Torrington (8-3) at No. 2Rockville, 12:30p.m. Class **S**—Semifinals

No. 5New Fairfield (9-2) at No. 1Bloomfield (11-0), 12:30p.m. No. 3Ansonia (10-1) vs. No. 2Cromwell/ Portland (11-0) at Pierson Park, Cromwell, 12:30p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S LATE COLLEGE RESULT

MEN'S BASKETBALL WINTHROP 82. HARTFORD 75

THURSDAY'S **COLLEGE RESULTS**

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

NCAA Div. I **Tournament**—First Round **SACRED HEART AT TEXAS, LATE**

MEN'S BASKETBALL **SACRED HEART 74. LAFAYETTE 67**

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

SMITH 62, EASTERN 57

MEN'S HOCKEY **ARMY 4, SACRED HEART 1**

FRIDAY'S COLLEGE

SCHEDULE WOMEN'S SOCCER

NCAA Div. III Tournament-Semifinal (Greensboro, N.C.) TCNJ vs. Wesleyan, 1:45p.m.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL NCAA Div. I Tournament-First Round

Fairfield at UCLA, 10p.m.

MEN'S BASKETBALL St. Peter's at Quinnipiac, 7p.m.

Fairfield at Canisius, 7p.m.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

UConn at Seton Hall, 7p.m. Amherst at Wesleyan, 7p.m.

MEN'S HOCKEY

UConn at Merrimack, 7p.m. Amherst at Trinity, 7p.m. Hamilton at Wesleyan, 7p.m. Dartmouth at Yale, 7p.m. Quinnipiac at Rensselaer, 7p.m.

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

Holy Cross at UConn, 6:30p.m. Sacred Heart at Johnson & Wales, 7p.m.

AHL							
Standings							
Atlantic	GP	W	LC	TLS	OL	PTS	PCT
Springfield	19	14	3	2	0	28	.789
Hartford	18	12	4	2	0	24	.722
Providence	17	8	5	3	1	16	.588
Hershey	17	8	6	2	1	19	.559
W-B/Scranto	n 18	8	8	0	2	18	.500
Charlotte	19	8	9	2	0	18	.474
Bridgeport	20	6	11	1	2	13	.375

GP W LOTLSOLPTS PCT North 16 15 1 17 9 3 0 26 .938 3 20 .676 0 Rochester 17 11 6 0 0 18 .647 1 0 Laval 7 9 1 0 15 .441 17 6 8 2 1 13 .441 GP W LOTLSOLPTS PCT Central 17 11 4 1 1 18 .706 18 11 6 1 0 19 .639 Chicago Manitoba lowa 15 9 5 1 Grand Rapids 17 7 7 2 17 .633 17 .500 15 6 7 1 16 6 8 1 Rockford 1 14 .438 Texas Milwaukee 17 5 11 1 0 GP W LOTLSOLPTS PCT Stockton 15 11 2 2 0 22 .800 15 11 3 0 1 23 .767 Ontario San Diego Henderson 16 8 6 16 .563 Tucson Bakersfield 11 .536 14 .500 14 .500 1 1 1 0 1 2 Colorado 14 5 6 2 1 11 .464 14 5 8 1 0 11 .393 Abbotsford

WEDNESDAY'S LATE RESULTS

UTICA 2, BELLEVILLE 0 TEXAS 4, LAVAL 3 (OT) **ROCKFORD 3. MILWAUKEE 1** ABBOTSFORD 5, ONTARIO 4
SPRINGFIELD AT HARTFORD, PPD. SYRACUSE AT ROCHESTER, PPD.

BAKERSFIELD AT STOCKTON, PPD. THURSDAY'S RESULT

IOWA AT CHICAGO, LATE FRIDAY'S SCHEDULE

W-B/Scranton at Syracuse, 7p.m. Milwaukee at Cleveland, 7p.m. Texas at Laval, 7p.m. Rockford at Grand Rapids, 7p.m. Charlotte at Lehigh Valley, 7p.m. Tucson at Colorado, 9p.m. San Diego at Stockton, 10p.m.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL									
Big East basketball standings MEN'S									
Team	CON	F CPCT	OVR PCT						
DePaul	0-0	.000	6-0 1.000						
Creighton	0-0	.000	7-1 .875						
Marquette	0-0	.000	7-1 .875						
UConn	0-0	.000	7-1 .875						
Providence	0-0	.000	7-1 .875						
Xavier	0-0	.000	6-1 .857						
Seton Hall	0-0	.000	6-1 .857						
St. John's	0-0	.000	5-1 .833						
1.00									

5-2 .714 5-3 .625 3-3 .500 0-0 0-0 Georgetown .000 **WEDNESDAY'S LATE** RESULTS

VILLANOVA 71, PENN 56 SETON HALL 85, WAGNER 63 PROVIDENCE 72, TEXAS TECH 68

FRIDAY'S SCHEDULE

Ransas at St. John S, 7 p.m.								
WOMEN'S								
Team	CON	F CPCT (OVR PO	CT				
UConn	0-0	.000	3-1 .7	50				
DePaul	0-0	.000	5-2 .7	14				
Marquette	0-0	.000	4-2 .6	67				
Creighton	0-0	.000	3-2 .6	00				
Seton Hall	0-0	.000	3-2 .6	00				
Georgetown	0-0	.000	3-3 .5	00				
Xavier	0-0	.000	3-3 .5	00				
Villanova	0-0	.000	3-3 .5	00				
St. John's	0-0	.000	3-4 .4	29				
Providence	0-0	.000	3-4 .4	29				
Butler	0-0	.000	0. 6-0	00				

WEDNESDAY'S LATE RESULTS PROVIDENCE 73, HARTFORD 62 VILLANOVA 65, LEHIGH 60

FRIDAY'S **SCHEDULE**

UConn at Seton Hall, 7p.m. Villanova at Providence, 7n.m. Butler at DePaul, 8p.m.

Xavier at Marquette, 8p.m.									
HOCKEY EAST									
Standings MEN'S Team OGP		OVR CGF	CONEC	этс					
Providence 17		12-5-09	6-3-0	19					
UMass 12		7-4-1 8	5-2-1						
UMass Lowell 12		8-2-2 7	6-1-0	17					
Northeastern 16		11-4-19	5-3-1	17					
Boston College	14	7-5-2	95-3-1	17					
UConn	14	8-6-0	95-4-0	15					
Boston University	y 15	4-9-2	103-5-2	11					
Merrimack	14	6-8-0	93-6-0	11					
New Hampshire	15	7-7-1	93-5-1	8					
Maine	13	1-10-2	91-7-1	5					
Vermont	12	2-9-1	61-4-1	4					

FRIDAY'S **SCHEDULE**

Northeastern at Providence, 7p.m. UConn at Merrimack, 7p.m. Vermont at Maine, 7p.m. UMass at UMass Lowell, 7p.m. New Hampshire at Boston University,

7:30p.m.			
WOMEN'S			
Team	OGP	OVR CGP CONF C	PTS
Northeastern	17	14-2-1 14 11-2-1	35
Boston Universit	ty 15	7-5-3 13 6-4-3	22
UConn	18	12-4-2 11 6-3-2	19
Boston College	15	8-7-0 10 6-4-0	17
Providence	15	6-5-4 10 4-4-2	16
Merrimack	18	5-12-1 13 4-8-1	14
Maine	17	6-10-1 10 4-5-1	14
Vermont	15	7-6-2 84-3-1	13

New Hampshire 15 Holy Cross 14 2-12-0 10 1-9-0 **FRIDAY'S**

SCHEDULE Boston College at Maine, 2p.m. Boston University at Merrimack, 2p.m. Princeton at Providence, 2p.m. Vermont at New Hampshire, 6p.m.

Holy Cross at UConn, 6:30p.m.					
ECAC HOCKEY					
Standings MEN'S Team	OGP	OVR CG	P CONF	CPTS	
Cornell	9	8-1-0	65-1-0	14	
Harvard	9	5-3-1	64-1-1	14	
Quinnipiac	14	10-1-3	43-0-1	11	
Clarkson	15	8-4-3	63-2-1	11	
Colgate	16	8-8-0	63-3-0	9	
Rensselaer	15	6-7-2	63-3-0	9	
St. Lawrence	13	3-6-4	62-2-2	9	
Princeton	9	3-5-1	42-2-0	6	
Dartmouth	8	2-6-0	52-3-0	6	
Union	13	4-7-2	62-3-1	6	
Brown	8	1-7-0	61-5-0	4	
Yale	7	1-6-0	5 0-5-0	0	

Brown Yale 7 **FRIDAY'S SCHEDULE**

Dartmouth at Yale, 7p.m. Quinnipiac at Rensselaer, 7p.m. Cornell at St. Lawrence, 7p.m. Harvard at Brown, 7p.m. Colgate at Clarkson, 7p.m. Princeton at Union, 7p.m.

WOMEN'S		
Team	OGP	OVR CGP CONF CPTS
Quinnipiac	18	15-1-287-1-0 21
Princeton	10	5-4-1 85-2-1 16.5
Yale	13	9-3-1 85-2-1 16.5
Colgate	19	14-4-1 85-2-1 14.5
Clarkson	18	14-2-2 65-1-0 14
Harvard	10	7-3-0 74-3-0 14
St. Lawrence	18	7-7-4 63-2-1 10.5
Cornell	10	4-5-1 83-4-1 10.5
Rensselaer	17	5-12-082-6-0 7
Dartmouth	10	4-6-0 72-5-0 6
Brown	13	1-10-281-6-1 4.5
Union	17	2-14-180-8-0 0

THURSDAY'S RESULTS CLARKSON 1, ST. LAWRENCE 1(OT) ST. ANSELM 4, BROWN 3

FRIDAY'S SCHEDULE Princeton at Providence, 2p.m.

Union at Harvard, 6p.m

NASCAR

39 28

91 75

Kingston Lisbon

London Madrid

Milan

Montreal

Mexico City

Larson comes full circle with Hendrick in winning 1st title

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - Kyle Larson was 18 years old and looking to jump from dirt racing to the big leagues when he went into a meeting at Hendrick Motorsports with childhood idol Jeff Gordon.

"I was like star struck a little bit." Larson recalled. "We were going to his office and I turned the corner and his supermodel wife was standing there, and she's like 7-foot tall and beautiful, and I was like 'Oh, my God, this is crazy.'

And then Gordon broke Larson's heart. "We sat down in his office, and Jeff Gordon is such an awesome race car driver and one I've looked up to since I was a little toddler," Larson said. "Everybody knows I love dirt racing, and he's like, 'You really need to get out of dirt cars. They're going to teach you bad habits."

Larson was crushed when he left the meeting and he ended up right down the North Carolina road at Chip Ganassi Racing, where the owner didn't care about Larson's extracurricular racing and signed him on the spot. Larson spent seven-plus seasons driving for Ganassi until he was fired four races into 2020 for using a racial slur. He was suspended nearly all of last year by NASCAR but when it was lifted, Larson's journey with Gordon and Hendrick came full circle.

Larson got his second chance in NASCAR with the team, and Rick Hendrick and Gordon changed their mind about Larson's dirt racing. If it kept him sharp and didn't detract from his job as driver of the No. 5 Chevrolet, then Hendrick would allow Larson to race in other series.

"When you talk to a driver and you know in his heart that it's really important to him, I told him 'Look, I don't want you to get hurt," said Rick Hendrick. "He said, 'It makes me better. It keeps me sharp. I think it helps me in the Cup car.' So I just agreed to let him do it.

The agreement led to Larson's first Cup Series title — and record-extending 14th for Rick Hendrick — and one of the most dominant seasons in at least a decade. Larson won 10 races, the \$1 million All-Star race and broke Gordon's 20-year mark for most laps led in a season.

"I joke with Jeff about my trip to Hendrick that day," Larson said. "It all worked out in the end. I got to get experience and they didn't have to pay for any of it before I got to them.

Larson spoke ahead of Thursday night's annual season-ending awards celebration for NASCAR in Nashville. The event was canceled last year because of the pandemic when Hendrick driver Chase Elliott won his first title, so the party will be a Hendrick celebration of back-to-back championships.



NASCAR Cup Series driver Kyle Larson celebrates a Nov. 7 victory in Avondale, Ariz. **RICK SCUTERI/AP**

Larson has enjoyed the VIP treatment and noted NASCAR provided him with both security and a car service to get around Nashville. And as he fulfilled his pre-party obligations, his son Owen was running outside the hotel as Larson's mother-in-law tried to burn off some of the

6-year-old's energy. Owen Larson has celebrated his father's first NASCAR title as if he's the actual winner; at a parade two weeks ago in Larson's hometown of Elk Grove, California, Owen rode in an oversized shopping cart while his parents and little sister waved to fans from the backseat of a convertible.

Initially nervous he'd be embarrassed by a low turnout for his homecoming, Larson instead had a celebration his family will

forever treasure. "The turnout surprised the heck out of me, it was way bigger that I thought it would be, and Audrey and Owen had a blast," Larson said. "You know, Owen thinks he's famous. He jokes with me that he's more famous than I am.'

The crowd on Lower Broadway for Wednesday night's burnout competition would disagree. Larson received a raucous ovation during the contest, and with his own father riding as passenger, they gave a nod to Larson's signature celebration in dirt racing: Mike Larson held a steering wheel out the window as Larson dazzled fans lined five-deep along Nashville's entertainment strip.

He says he doesn't feel any different as champion, and aside from all the celebrations, life is pretty much the same as usual for a humble driver who just capped a remarkable comeback season. Still, after a stop at the Urban Youth Racing School in Philadelphia next week, Larson and wife, Katelyn, will head to Abu Dhabi to attend their first Formula One race. It's the title-deciding season-ender, and Larson seemed quite excited to be attending as the NASCAR champion.